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



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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Fifth Report submitted by Slovenia

**Pursuant to Article 25, paragraph 2 of the Framework
Convention for the Protection of National Minorities –
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Fifth Report
by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia
on the Implementation of the
Framework Convention for the Protection of
National Minorities

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INTRODUCTION

In 1998 the Republic of Slovenia ratified the Framework Convention of the Council of Europe for the Protection of the National Minorities. Since the convention does not contain a definition of the term 'national minority', and each party to the convention is therefore left to determine which ethnic groups are to be treated as national minorities covered by the convention within their respective territories, the Republic of Slovenia, in compliance with the Constitution and its national legislation, upon ratifying the Framework Convention, declared in writing that the autochthonous Italian and Hungarian national communities in Slovenia are regarded as national minorities. Insofar as this is not in contravention with the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia and other legislative acts of the Republic of Slovenia (in conflict with the legal order), the rules in this convention also apply to the members of the Roma community living in the Republic of Slovenia.

The Framework Convention of the Council of Europe for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages constitute a commitment by the Republic of Slovenia as a member of the Council of Europe to protect national minorities.

The Republic of Slovenia guarantees special constitutional rights to members of national minorities as follows: it guarantees rights not only to individual members of minorities but also to communities, representation in national or local representative bodies, special rights regardless of the number of members of the minority, and has expressly undertaken to support, materially and morally, the exercise of such rights.¹

Traditional minorities are regulated in Articles 5, 11, 61, 62 and 64 of the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No. 33/91-I, 42/97 – UZS68, 66/00 – UZ80, 24/03 – UZ3a, 47, 68, 69/04 – UZ14, 69/04 – UZ43, 69/04 – UZ50, 68/06 – UZ121,140,143, 47/13 – UZ148 and 47/13 – UZ90,97,99; hereinafter: the Constitution). Their position and the manner of exercising rights are also regulated in sector-specific laws and other regulations and legal acts. Since members of minorities are citizens of the Republic of Slovenia, it is all the more important that they are guaranteed a special status by the state. The collective rights of the Italian and Hungarian national communities are laid down in the Constitution, and the collective rights of the Roma are regulated by a special act.

¹ "In accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia, everyone, irrespective of their nationality, has the right to freely express their national affiliation, foster and give expression to their culture, and use their language and script, particularly in procedures before national and other authorities deciding on their rights. In addition to said rights, the Italian and Hungarian national communities are guaranteed additional special collective rights (the right to use their national symbols freely, the right to education and schooling in their own languages, the right to foster relations with their nations of origin, the right to establish their own self-governing communities, the right to be represented in representative bodies, and the right to give consent to the adoption of regulations that concern their rights). The Roma are guaranteed only some of these collective rights, for example the right to be represented in municipal councils."

(*Ustavnopravno varstvo manjšinskih narodnih skupnosti v Sloveniji* (Constitutional protection of minority national communities in Slovenia), Ciril Ribičič, 2004,

<https://revus.revues.org/1530>)

PART I

Practical measures taken at the national level to implement the results of the fourth monitoring cycle regarding the implementation of commitments under the Framework Convention of the Council of Europe for the Protection of National Minorities in the Republic of Slovenia:

- a) Steps taken to publicise the results of the fourth monitoring cycle (opinion, state comments, resolution): publication, dissemination and translation into the official language(s) and minority language(s) where appropriate.

The Republic of Slovenia strives to publish documents, reports and results and inform all interested parties of the documents of the Council of Europe. Accordingly, all competent national authorities have been informed of the adoption of important documents, information in that respect has also been provided to the public, and documents or links to them have been published on the websites of competent national authorities.

A press release on the adoption of the Fourth Opinion of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in Slovenia, together with the original of the opinion and its translation into Slovenian, was published on the website of the Government Office for National Minorities on 11 January 2018 and is available at: http://www.un.gov.si/si/medijsko_sredisce/novica/5946/.

At its 171st regular session held on 8 March 2018, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the proposed comments on the findings and recommendations of the Fourth Opinion of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in the Republic of Slovenia. A press release on this was issued and is available at: www.vlada.si/fileadmin/dokumenti/si/Sporocila_za_javnost/2018/03/sev171.doc.

- b) Any follow-up activities organised at national, regional and local levels, including activities organised jointly with the Council of Europe, such as discussions, seminars, evaluations, impact assessments, studies, etc., and the outcomes of these events.

The Republic of Slovenia explains that a meeting on the Romani language organised by CAHROM of the Council of Europe was held at the European Centre for Modern Languages of the Council of Europe in Graz at the end of March 2017 (from 29 to 31 March). The meeting was hosted by the Austrian Federal Ministry that is responsible for minorities. Slovenia was represented by Bronka Straus from the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and Samanta Baranja from the Centre for School and Extracurricular Activities. A large part of the meeting was devoted to the presentation of the status of the Roma and the Romani language in different countries. The participants presented the situation in this respect in their respective countries. Nine countries were represented: Austria, Germany, Finland, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland, Slovenia, Switzerland, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Slovenia was represented by Bronka Straus and Samanta Baranja. Joint participation by the Slovenian expert for the Romani language and a representative of the Ministry was very well accepted.

The meeting's conclusions were the following: the Romani language is not a uniform language, as there are different Romani languages and different language variants within them. In Slovenia, there are at least four Romani language variants. Romani languages are dying out, and the Council of Europe strives for the Member States to adopt measures to slow down and stop that process. What kind of measures do we have in mind? Very different measures,

depending on individual groups of Roma, their wishes, way of living, as well as the legislative regulation of each individual country. It would not be reasonable to standardise the Romani language. The inclusion of the Romani language in the school system does not necessarily mean a reliable step forward in terms of preserving the Romani language. This is more of a symbolic measure. However, there are examples of good practice that should be encouraged and further developed.

In March 2019 a seminar entitled [Preserving and teaching the Romani language in education](#) was held in Ljubljana; the seminar was organised by the National Education Institute Slovenia and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport in cooperation with the European Centre for Modern Languages in Graz and attended by the management and professional staff of kindergartens, primary and secondary schools, Roma assistants, providers of activities in multi-purpose centres, representatives of (Romani) non-governmental organisations, representatives of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, researchers from the Educational Research Institute, advisors from the National Education Institute Slovenia, and the interested public (a journalist – host of the television show for the Roma *So vakeres?* – What are you saying?, RTV Slovenia).

David Little and Ján Hero presented the activities and operation of the European Centre for Modern Languages (hereinafter: the ECML) to the participants of the seminar, stressing that the ECML is mainly responsible for the organisation of international projects in the field of language education. They also presented documents prepared at the ECML for the purposes of teaching and learning the Romani language and helping Roma pupils in their further work.

The participants of the seminar described the different challenges or problems they are facing in the fields of preschool education and Roma children's entry into school. First, they highlighted the language barrier, since Roma children do not have a sufficient command of the Slovenian or Romani language, and upon starting school, they often begin to learn two languages – Slovenian and Romani. Preschool and school teachers, on the other hand, have no knowledge of the Romani language, which has many dialects. Preschool and school teachers also expressed the need for teaching aids and material that would help them in the process of teaching and education.

The National Education Institute Slovenia is preparing a guidance plan as support material for teachers in teaching the Romani language. A good knowledge of the mother tongue is a prerequisite for a good understanding of the Slovenian language.

- c) Participation of minority organisations and other non-governmental organisations in the authorities' implementation and monitoring of the Framework Convention, and their involvement in the preparation of the fifth report.

The Republic of Slovenia explains that competent national authorities participated in activities relating to the preparation of this report, and that the fifth report was considered by the Inter-ministerial Working Group for Human Rights, which operates within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Inter-Ministerial Working Group for Human Rights is composed of representatives of ministries and government offices, universities and institutes, the representative of the Human Rights Ombudsman, and representatives of non-governmental organisations. The Inter-Ministerial Working Group was established soon after Slovenia gained independence and is the umbrella body for the inter-sectoral and wider consideration of respect for human rights in Slovenia and around the world. The Inter-Ministerial Working Group for Human Rights strives for an open and tolerant Slovenian society based on full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, which is in accordance with the Republic of Slovenia's international legal commitments in the area of human rights.

- d) Any other measures taken to promote awareness of the Framework Convention among national minorities, public officials and the general public.

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the entry into force of the Framework Convention of the Council of Europe for the Protection of National Minorities, the Republic of Slovenia on 1 February 2018 published a press release on the celebration of the anniversary at the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The press release is available at: http://www.mzz.gov.si/si/medijsko_sredisce/novica/39409/.

I. Answers to questions requiring immediate action:

- 1. Step up efforts to ensure security of tenure for the Roma living in informal settlements by legalising them where possible and guarantee adequate living conditions and effective access to basic services and infrastructure; monitor, within the applicable legal framework, the fulfilment by municipalities of their duties in this respect; swiftly adopt the necessary amendments to the 2007 Roma Community Act in order to improve access to the rights of persons belonging to this minority.**

The Republic of Slovenia explains that, as part of its activities to date relating to guaranteeing adequate living conditions for the Roma, the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning (hereinafter: the MESP) has implemented a number of measures in the area of defining Roma settlements and their infrastructure as part of the preparation of municipal strategic and implementing spatial planning documents, which, in accordance with the applicable legislation, are the only legal basis for legalisation and inclusion in the settlement system of municipalities. The adopted spatial planning documents are also a precondition for obtaining funds allocated for balanced spatial development from different national and EU resources.

The above is a precondition for "ensuring the security of tenure for the Roma living in informal settlements", as the tenure right is linked to the property right or the right to private property, which is guaranteed by the Constitution. A problem arises when the property of another is usurped, meaning that a settlement, part of a settlement or an individual building is situated on land in respect of which the Roma cannot demonstrate the property right or the right to build. In such cases, the MESP seeks to reach an agreement with individual municipalities as land owners so that, after the adoption of spatial planning documents, they carry out the land subdivision of the property concerned, ensure community infrastructure and sell individual plots of land to the Roma who are interested in buying them at a symbolic price or in instalments. The Roma, of course, must also demonstrate a serious intention to fulfil their part of the obligations. In the case of individual owners, there is a contractual relationship between the seller and the buyer, and the municipality may also participate as a mediator. The MESP does not have the funds to buy land and its community infrastructure. So far, the state has not taken action instead of inactive local communities, as this would be an encroachment on the original right of municipalities; in addition, it would also not be possible to achieve social acceptance of such interference in the local environment.

In its final report, the Inter-Ministerial Working Group has established, among other things, that it is necessary to establish continuous coordination between ministries in the area of addressing spatial issues pertaining to Roma settlements, and that such continuous inter-ministerial coordination should be established at the government level since the effectiveness of addressing the issues concerned largely depends on the degree of empowerment of members of the Roma community and is therefore outside the competence of the MESP.

The Inter-Ministerial Working Group has also established that the area of spatial issues pertaining to Roma settlements is regulated by a number of acts, most of which do not fall within the competence of the MESP. Before drafting a special act for the intervention regulation of Roma settlements, a comprehensive review of the legislation should be made to establish if any amendments are necessary due to such intervention regulation of spatial issues.

Pursuant to Article 14 of the Promotion of Balanced Regional Development Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], Nos 20/11, 57/12 and 46/16) and Article 12 of the Decree on the implementation of endogenous regional policy measures (Official

Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], Nos 16/13 and 78/15), and also the Roma Community in the Republic of Slovenia Act, the National Programme of Measures for Roma (hereinafter: the NPMR) 2010–2015 and the NPMR 2017–2021, the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology (hereinafter: the MEDT) allocates funds for co-financing basic community infrastructure projects in Roma settlements. The latest call for proposals was launched in 2016 to co-finance basic community infrastructure projects in Roma settlements in 2016 and 2017. A total of EUR 2,000,000 were made available under that call for proposals, of which EUR 1,000,000 for 2016 and EUR 1,000,000 for 2017. The purpose of the call was to build a basic community infrastructure in Roma settlements. The objective of the call for proposals was to ensure basic living conditions necessary for the development and life for the Roma population in Roma settlements by co-financing investments in a basic community infrastructure in areas where the Roma ethnic community lives in the Republic of Slovenia. The call for proposals was open to municipalities with densely built-up Roma settlements lacking infrastructure and which had a representative of the Roma community in the municipal council during the current term of the municipal council in accordance with the Local Self-Government Act or which, on the date of publication of the call for proposals, had a special working body of the municipal council tasked with monitoring the status of the Roma community and whose members were also members of the Roma community in accordance with the provisions of the Roma Community in the Republic of Slovenia Act.

- 2. Intensify efforts to combat the increase of hate speech, particularly on social media, by swiftly and actively condemning racially hostile language in the public domain; strengthen the response of the criminal justice system in cases of hate crimes by ensuring that, when sentencing, racist motivation for committing an offence is duly taken into account as an aggravating circumstance for all offences; ensure the effective investigation and appropriate prosecution and punishment of perpetrators; increase public awareness of remedies available and enhance training of the police, prosecutors and judges on the application of laws.**

The Republic of Slovenia explains that all criminal offences in the area of prevention, detection and investigation of deviant conduct containing elements of xenophobia, racism or other forms of intolerance are considered in a consistent manner by the police without exception and regardless of their form or the method of commission. This includes all types of attacks with racist or discriminatory motivation and other forms of discrimination that may be understood as such on the basis of circumstances and are defined in the Criminal Code or the Protection of Public Order Act. This also includes written and verbal threats or insults uttered because of differences, damage to the property of the target group, offensive graffiti, posters, leaflets or other messages, including messages published using electronic media, for example, on the Internet or other mass media.

In the Slovenian substantive criminal legislation, hate speech is criminalised in Article 297 of the Criminal Code (hereinafter: the KZ-1) as an offence of publicly inciting hatred, violence or intolerance, which may also be committed by publication in mass media or on websites.

Article 63 of the Constitution provides that any incitement to national, racial, religious or other discrimination, and the inflaming of national, racial, religious, or other hatred and intolerance are unconstitutional and that any incitement to violence and war is unconstitutional. The prohibition of hate speech is therefore a permissible restriction on the freedom of expression; however, this restriction must also be in accordance with the constitutional principle of proportionality in cases where a category of expression that is considered particularly harmful pursuant to the Constitution is involved.

The most deviant and reprehensible instances of hate speech are defined as criminal offences. Article 297 of the KZ-1 defines public incitement to hatred, violence or intolerance as a criminal offence. The definition of said criminal offence was last amended by the KZ-1B amendment in 2011 when it was harmonised with the 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. By way of the KZ-1B amendment, paragraph one of Article 297 of the KZ-1 was amended with an additional requirement, namely that a criminal offence is committed in a manner that can jeopardise or disturb public law and order, or uses force or threat, verbal abuse or insult, the purpose of which was to define the criminal offence more precisely so that it can be appropriately distinguished from minor offences under Article 20 of the Protection of Public Order Act (the ZJRM-1).^[1]

By way of the KZ-1B amendment, paragraph three of Article 297 of the KZ-1 was amended to explicitly include, as a statutory element, "publication on websites", which are becoming a prevalent public means of communication and also a means of committing a criminal offence of incitement to hatred, violence or intolerance. The said amendment dispelled doubts over whether "mass media" also include websites as the public part of the web, which includes the possibility of punishing the editor or the person replacing them.

In terms of action taken by the rule of law in accordance with the principle of *ultima ratio*, criminal prosecution should be the last means of eliminating negative phenomena in society, which is why other, less reprehensible instances of hate speech are defined as minor offences (mostly offences against public order and peace, offences under the Mass Media Act, the Audiovisual Media Services Act, and the Freedom of Religion Act).

Regarding the recommendation that "racist motivation for committing an offence is duly taken into account as an aggravating circumstance for all offences", we explain that the applicable Article 49 of the KZ-1 stipulates that the sentence must be determined within prescribed statutory limits taking into account the gravity of the offence committed and the perpetrator's culpability, providing, in particular, examples of aggravating and mitigating circumstances, such as, among other things, "the motives for which the offence was committed", which also includes "elements of hatred", "racial" and other motives. The provision of paragraph two of Article 49 of the KZ-1 also includes "all other circumstances relating to the perpetrator's personality and to the expected effect of the punishment on the perpetrator's future life", which enables the court to individualise the penalty appropriately depending on the circumstances of each particular case.

In this regard, it is important that, in the applicable KZ-1, in addition to the criminal offence referred to in Article 297 and described above, the area considered has been taken into account concerning several other criminal offences. For example, the criminal offence of the violation of the right to equality referred to in Article 131 of the KZ-1, the criminal offence of murder under point three or four of Article 116 (".../ because of violation of equality, out of unscrupulous vengeance, or from other base motives"), genocide under Article 100, and crimes against humanity under Article 101 of the KZ-1.

In this regard, mention should also be made of the important decision of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia in the case of [Ljubljana Higher Court Judgment II Kp 65803/2012](#) of 2019, in which the court upheld the somewhat broader interpretation of the elements of the criminal offence of public incitement to hatred, violence or intolerance (Article 297 of the KZ-

^[1] In a number of decisions, the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Slovenia held that the KZ-1 was not in conformity with the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia if the statutory elements of a criminal offence matched exactly the statutory elements of a minor offence.

1), namely that the offence is committed in a manner that may **potentially** jeopardise or disturb public law and order, by use of either threat, verbal abuse or insult.

According to the data of the competent Ministry of Culture, a number of self-regulatory (for example, the Web Eye (*Spletno oko*) portal, the Anti-Hate Speech Council (*Svet za odziv na sovražni govor*), the Court of Honour of Journalists (*Novinarsko častno razsodišče*), etc.) and legislative measures have been implemented in recent years in the area of hate speech in the media in the Republic of Slovenia. These include, in particular, the latest amendment to the Mass Media Act made in 2016 and imposing on online media publishers to draw up rules for commenting and publish them in an appropriate place in the relevant medium and remove any comment that is not in accordance with the published rules in the shortest time possible or within one working day after it has been reported.

The prohibition of incitement to unequal treatment and intolerance is laid down in Article 8 of the Mass Media Act, which stipulates that the dissemination of programmes that encourage national, racial, religious, sexual or any other unequal treatment, or violence and war, or incite national, racial, religious, sexual or any other form of hatred and intolerance, is prohibited. A similar prohibition is also laid down in Article 9 of the Audiovisual Media Services Act, which stipulates that any incitement to discrimination on grounds of nationality, race, religion, sex or other discrimination or to violence and war or to hatred and intolerance on grounds of nationality, race, religion, sex or other hatred and intolerance via audiovisual media services is prohibited.

With regard to the relevant recommendation, it should be noted that the Mass Media Act regulates media and media publishers that cannot be equated with social networks, such as Facebook, Twitter, etc. Online social networks are therefore not regulated by the Slovenian media legislation.

With regard to future activities, it should be mentioned that on 28 June 2019 the Ministry of Culture put to public debate a proposal for an amendment to the Mass Media Act in which it proposed, among other things, that a fine be imposed for the violation of the prohibition of incitement to unequal treatment and intolerance in media or that, in such cases, the competent inspector may order the relevant media publisher to remove the unlawful programme content or to cease disseminating such content via the medium. In the case of online media that enable commenting, the publisher will be required to include the prohibition of incitement to unequal treatment and intolerance in its rules for commenting. The proposed amendment also contains a new definition of media, which does not refer to individual types of media and does not depend on the technology of transfer and the communication channel; accordingly, the media legislation will also cover new forms of mass media. Please note that the aforementioned provisions are only proposals for solutions for public debate. The final regulation will be within the competence of the legislator, the National Assembly.

On 20 June 2019, the National Assembly adopted the Resolution on the national programme for the prevention and suppression of crime 2019–2023, which sets as an objective the development of programmes for reducing public incitement to hatred and intolerance. In this part, the resolution sets out key activities and measures, stipulating that programmes and action plans should be prepared to reduce all forms of hate speech or public incitement to hatred and intolerance. To achieve this, it is necessary to support, in particular, educational, promotional and other preventive activities regarding hate speech, encourage public debate on these issues, and launch campaigns for raising the awareness of the public about speech and discriminatory public discourse. It is necessary to promote the adoption of codes of ethical conduct, establish self-regulatory mechanisms and ensure greater integration and cooperation among all competent and relevant stakeholders in the area of hate speech, including national authorities and institutions, the non-governmental sector, civil initiatives, interest groups, the education, science and research sectors, internet service providers, and media. It is necessary to continue to examine regulations on detection, prevention, investigation and definition of hate

crimes and offences with a view to preparing potentially more appropriate legislative solutions. For the purpose of the implementation of the resolution, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia will also establish an inter-ministerial working group of experts.

3. Improve equal access of all Roma children to education, in particular, by mainstreaming preschool education for Roma pupils as soon as possible into the general education system; increase the number of Roma assistants and their level of qualification; transform the ‘incubators’ located in the Roma settlements into multipurpose community centres.

The Republic of Slovenia explains that a project is being carried out on the topic of Roma assistants and multipurpose centres at the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport as part of the measure of early integration in the education system – ensuring conditions for inclusion in pre-school education and the measure of increasing social and cultural capital in Roma settlements – integration between institutions.

The launch of the project 'Together for Knowledge: the implementation of activities relating to support mechanisms for the acquisition of knowledge for members of the Roma community'; the project runs from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2021.

The project 'Together for Knowledge: the implementation of activities relating to support mechanisms for the acquisition of knowledge for members of the Roma community' is an upgrade to previous projects that focused on motivating Roma children to increase their participation, inclusion and performance in educational institutions – either through the instrument of Roma assistants in primary schools, Roma educational incubators (now called multipurpose centres) which operate in individual Roma settlements in Slovenia or extracurricular activities.

The objectives, target groups and indicators of the project are in accordance with the Operational Programme 2014–2020 of the European Social Fund.

Roma assistants are the link between members of the Roma community and educational institutions. They carry out their activities in schools, kindergartens, and partly also in Roma settlements. The number of assistants has risen to 27, and the number of primary schools involved from 29 to 31.

Three types of activities are carried out under this project: study help, creative and sports activities. This is an upgrade to the operation of previous incubators since, in the future, different activities from other areas (social affairs, employment, culture) will be included through projects connected with providers of activities in multipurpose centres. The purpose is to achieve the objective of empowering members of the Roma community.

The Roma assistant is the main link between a school or kindergarten and the Roma community.

Following inter-ministerial coordination, it has been agreed that the activities of the ministries (the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Culture, and the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities) will be integrated and complementary. Within the project carried out by the Centre for School and Extracurricular Activities, cooperation with those centres is also one of the conditions for applying. The activities of the (aforementioned) incubator/multipurpose centre will be integrated between ministries, which will improve the quality of those centres.

Indicators – September 2018:

Number of persons from vulnerable groups included in the East programme and the West programme is 487 and 78, respectively.

Number of Roma assistants 26 (+ 1).

II. Answers regarding further recommendations:

- 4. Pursue a constructive dialogue with representatives of the new national communities and the German-speaking ethnic community to enhance the protection of the rights of persons belonging to these minorities offered by the Framework Convention on an article-by-article basis in order to preserve and promote their identity.**

Through the competent Ministry of Culture, the Republic of Slovenia strives for a constructive dialogue with members of the German-speaking ethnic group. As part of efforts to strengthen the dialogue with members of the German-speaking ethnic group, meetings with representatives of the aforementioned group were held at the Office of the Minister for Culture.

To facilitate application for an annual public call for proposals for the selection of cultural projects under the programme intended for members of the German-speaking ethnic group in the Republic of Slovenia which are financed by the Republic of Slovenia with budgetary funds earmarked for cultural activities on the basis of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Government of the Republic of Austria on cooperation in culture, education and science, workshops are organised at which tender documents and the method of drawing on funds are presented and questions arising in connection with the call for proposals are considered. Workshops are one of the means by which the Ministry of Culture is promptly informed of the needs and problems encountered by members of the German-speaking ethnic group in Slovenia.

Applicants who applied for the call for proposals proposed several times that a representative of the German-speaking ethnic group be included in the expert committee for cultural activities of special groups in the Republic of Slovenia, which, among other things, considers and evaluates applications submitted under the call for proposals and considers the topic of minorities. The Ministry of Culture took the proposal into account and in 2014 included mag. Franci Pivec, who was proposed by representatives of societies of the German-speaking ethnic group, in the expert committee. Mr Pivec has been appointed to the expert committee for cultural activities of special groups in the Republic of Slovenia for the period 2019–2022.

One of the forms of cooperation between the Ministry of Culture and providers of cultural activities of members of the German-speaking ethnic group is also the possibility that cultural project operators that are selected in a call for proposals make comments and give praise, opinions and ideas regarding the public call for proposals in their final reports on project implementation. Data thus obtained show that most operators are satisfied with their cooperation with the Ministry.

In the Republic of Slovenia, the Ministry of Culture strives for a constructive dialogue with representatives of new national communities by organising consultations aimed primarily at obtaining information about their cultural needs and the challenges they face in the cultural field.

A constructive dialogue with representatives of new national communities covered by the Declaration of the Republic of Slovenia on the Status of National Communities of Members of Nations of the former SFRY in the Republic of Slovenia (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No. 7/11), namely Albanians, Bosniaks, Montenegrins, Croats, Macedonians and Serbs, also takes place within the Council of the Government of the Republic

of Slovenia for issues pertaining to national communities of members of nations of the former SFRY in the Republic of Slovenia.

More information on the establishment and operation of the Council is provided in Part III of this report (Article 15 of the Framework Convention, effective participation in the decision-making process) under point 94.

5. Identify and apply alternative ways of gathering disaggregated, anonymous data on the situation of persons belonging to minorities, including through thematic reports and surveys in order to enable the adoption and implementation of evidence-based policies for their protection.

The Republic of Slovenia explains that no surveys by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia in which data on national affiliation would be collected are planned in the medium-term programme of statistic surveys and the annual programme of statistical surveys (<https://www.stat.si/statweb/LegislationAndDocuments/StatSurveys>). In this regard, it notes that, in the period following the preparation of the fourth report, the Residence Registration Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No. 52/16) was adopted, which abolished the collection of data on national affiliation.

Considering the above and the applicable legislation in the area of personal data protection and the fact that competent institutions do not keep special records of persons on the basis of ethnical affiliation or nationality, when it comes to the number of such persons, we mostly rely on assessments made by municipalities, social work centres and other national institutions, and non-governmental organisations.

See the answer to Article 3 of the Framework Convention in Part III of this report.

6. Take steps to ensure that the existing legal framework pertaining to the protection of the Italian and Hungarian national minorities is adequately implemented, in particular by facilitating the use of minority languages in official contacts with local authorities, in the judiciary and with providers of basic services in the relevant ethnically mixed areas, and provide effective teacher training in minority languages.

The Republic of Slovenia explains that the competent Ministry of Public Administration organises regular working consultations on the implementation of bilingualism in nine municipalities where the Italian and Hungarian national minorities reside, this being one of the Ministry's activities to eliminate the gap between the obligations of municipal authorities defined in relevant regulations and the actual implementation of bilingualism in practice. Under the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia, municipal authorities are obliged to engage in positive discrimination in respect of representatives of the Italian and Hungarian national communities. This is why insisting on the consistent use of bilingualism in everyday practice is crucial for the exercise of the special rights of both communities. The coexistence of languages in the same area is an asset and an advantage both for the majority nation and for the representatives of the two national communities. To date, the Ministry has prepared five working consultations on the implementation of bilingualism in municipalities (the last one in May 2019).

As part of providing expert assistance to municipalities, the Ministry of Public Administration carries out systematic reviews of general municipal acts. The content refers to the assessment of legality of the reviewed municipal regulations. As part of the aforementioned reviews, the Ministry also verifies arrangements concerning bilingual operations in municipalities in which bilingualism is regulated by ordinances, thereby reviewing the possibility of use of minority languages in official contacts with local self-government authorities.

In accordance with Article 4 of the State Administration Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No. 113/05 – official consolidated version, 89/07 – Constitutional Court Decision, 126/07 – ZUP-E, 48/09, 8/10 – ZUP-G, 8/12 – ZVRS-F, 21/12, 47/13, 12/14, 90/14 and 51/16), Slovenian is the official language of the administration. In municipalities in which the autochthonous Italian or Hungarian national community resides, the official languages are also Italian or Hungarian. In these areas, the administration conducts business in the languages of the national communities.

This means that, in practice and daily work, clients are able to fully exercise their statutory and legal rights to use their language before administrative units as follows:

- in bilingual operations, when a party to a procedure uses the language of the national community (bilingual forms, the conduct of administrative procedures and the issuing of administrative acts, websites and signage on buildings and in offices also in the language of the national community, bilingual e-commerce, the provision of information to clients in both languages);
- forms and applications are regularly adjusted and updated;
- if the content on the websites is changed, the changed content is also translated into the language of the national community;
- the list of job descriptions (job classification) specifies the conditions and levels of competence in the national community language resulting directly from operational needs;
- vacancies for public positions dealing directly with clients are filled with the sufficient number of employees and qualified public employees with an adequate command of the community language;
- the majority of public employees who receive a bonus for bilingualism have an advanced knowledge of the national community language.

With regard to the implementation of bilingualism in practice in the Republic of Slovenia, it has been established that the legislation relating to the work of the Ministry of Justice when it comes to ensuring bilingualism in ethnically mixed areas is appropriate and therefore no changes are foreseen in this area. According to the assessment of the competent ministry, positive legislation provides for appropriate solutions in relation to ensuring bilingualism in ethnically mixed areas. If the Ministry learns of inconsistencies regarding the use of languages of national communities in practice, it will appropriately respond to them within the limits of its powers in the field of justice administration.

By way of a decision of 23 July 2015, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the Programme of measures for the implementation of regulations on bilingualism 2015–2018. Measures to improve the current situation also include measure 5.14 "Determination of whether Italian and Hungarian translations exist of all forms prescribed and intended for parties to exercise their rights in proceedings before courts", the implementation of which is the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice.

As part of the measure "Determination of whether Italian and Hungarian translations exist of all forms prescribed and intended for parties to exercise their rights in proceedings before courts", the following activities have been carried out since 2015:

a) Preparation of the Rules on the envelope for service by mail in contentious proceedings and the Rules on the envelope for service by mail in criminal proceedings

The Republic of Slovenia replies that on 19 May 2015 the Government Office for National Minorities informed the Ministry of Justice of a party's submission to which the party attached a judgment of Lendava Local Court in which the court established that bilingual envelopes for service in contentious proceedings did not exist.

Since the rules defining the content and form of envelopes for service by mail in judicial proceedings (the Rules on the envelope for service by mail in contentious proceedings, the Rules on the envelope for service by mail in contentious and criminal proceedings, and the Rules on the envelope for service by mail in the procedure for registering in the court register and for being struck from the court register without liquidation) lay down that in municipalities where the official language used in courts is not only Slovenian but also Italian or Hungarian, bilingual envelopes must be provided and used, and considering that in the annex to the rules, only an envelope in the Slovenian language was defined, the Ministry actively undertook the task of providing models of envelopes in the languages of the national communities. The texts of all envelopes used for serving documents in court proceedings were thus translated into Italian and Hungarian.

During the preparation of models of bilingual envelopes, it was established that the texts on the envelopes (in particular on those notifying parties and the court) were too long and that the (bilingual) text lacked transparency. That is why the Ministry prepared a draft of the new Rules with a proposal to shorten these texts as much as possible and to appropriately design the bilingual envelope so that the Slovenian text is followed by the text of the national community while still maintaining the transparency of the text.

The two Rules were issued by the Minister of Justice on 28 July 2016 and published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list Republike Slovenije*] No. 53/16; they entered into force on 20 August 2016. In November 2018, the Ministry again submitted the newly amended text on the envelopes for translation into the languages of the national communities and received the verification of the translation of the text of the envelopes with corrections (from Murska Sobota District Court on 29 January 2019 and from Koper District Court on 4 February 2019). The Ministry of Justice is now in the process of obtaining the technical models of envelopes containing the layout of the text so that, on this basis, the text can be amended and new models of envelopes prepared.

b) Determining the forms that are prescribed and intended for parties to exercise their rights in court proceedings and providing translations of these forms into Italian and Hungarian

The Republic of Slovenia explains that, after examining the regulations in the area falling within its competence, the Ministry of Justice determined the forms and submitted them for translation. In determining the forms, the Ministry relied on the fact that no clear position has been adopted on the authenticity of forms (that have been or will be) translated, because as such (i.e. in translated form) they have also not been published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia. That is why the Ministry based its decision on the following assumptions: (1) the form must be prescribed and published in the Official Gazette and (2) the form is intended for use by parties to exercise their rights in court proceedings. The following forms were translated into Italian and Hungarian:

- application for free legal aid (forms BPP No. 1 and BPP No. 2);
- instructions for filling in an application for free legal aid;
- medical certificate stating the reasons for a deferred prison sentence;

- medical certificate stating the reasons for the suspension of or the extension of the suspension of a prison sentence.

- c) *Provision and publication of translations of forms to obtain information from records kept by the Ministry of Justice and the exercise of other rights in proceedings within the competence of the Ministry of Justice (measure 5.6 "Translation of forms into the language of the national community")*

In the Republic of Slovenia, the competent Ministry of Justice ensured that the forms intended for clients to obtain information from records kept by the Ministry of Justice and to exercise rights in proceedings within the competence of the Ministry were submitted for translation as early as in 2015. The Ministry thus provided translations of the forms into Italian and Hungarian and published them on its official website; the following forms were translated:

- application form for information from the criminal records of natural persons;
- application form for information from records of final judgements or decisions on minor offences by natural persons;
- application form for information from the joint records on penalty points for road traffic offences;
- application form for information from the criminal records of legal persons;
- application form for information from records of final judgements or decisions on minor offences by legal persons;
- non-binding form for lodging a supervisory appeal;
- application form for crime victims compensation (including instructions on how to complete the form);
- a form setting out the detailed content of the test examination for lawyers from other countries.

All the translated forms referred to in points 2 and 3 are forms intended for clients who want to exercise certain rights. In deciding which forms are to be translated into the languages of the national communities, the Ministry of Justice relied on clients' actual needs. However, this is not a reason why other forms should not be translated in the future as well.

With regard to the measure "Translation of forms into the language of the national community", we additionally explain that the activities of the Ministry of Justice within measure 5.14 (Determination of whether Italian and Hungarian translations exist of all forms prescribed and intended for parties to exercise their rights in proceedings before courts), which falls within the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice, partially overlap with activities relating to measure 5.6 ("Translation of forms into the language of the national community"), which falls within the responsibility of all other line ministries. Accordingly, point 3 of measure 5.14 also entails the implementation of measure 5.6.

With regard to measure 5.6, we note that, in total, six prescribed forms, a non-binding form for lodging a supervisory appeal, instructions on how to complete an application for crime victims compensation and a form setting out the detailed content of the test examination for lawyers from other countries have been translated into Italian and Hungarian and published on the Ministry's website since 2015. All of them are intended to assist users of administrative services; additional translations of forms were provided and verified by courts in 2018; as already mentioned, we are currently in the process of obtaining the technical models of envelopes, on the basis of which the text will be amended and new models of envelopes prepared. In total, nine forms translated into Italian and nine forms translated into Hungarian are published on the Ministry's website and available to users of administrative services; in addition, application forms for free legal aid have been translated into the two languages of the

national communities and published on our website, together with the instruction on how to complete the form; these forms, however, are to be submitted to the competent court.

d) Verification of the operations of state prosecutor's offices in bilingual areas

In the Republic of Slovenia, the competent Ministry of Justice has not been informed of any problems arising in connection with the exercise of the right of the autochthonous Italian and Hungarian national communities to use the language of the community in the areas of jurisdiction of state prosecutor's offices in areas where these autochthonous Italian and Hungarian national communities reside; however, the Office of the State Prosecutor General of the Republic of Slovenia asked for clarification as to how communication with clients is carried out in these areas in practice and whether any problems had been identified in this respect and whether any other possible measures had been adopted. The Office of the State Prosecutor General of the Republic of Slovenia made inquiries at both state prosecutor's offices operating in the areas where the national communities reside. It was established that, at the Koper District State Prosecutor's Office, two state prosecutors are responsible for bilingual operations and that in 2019 the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, by way of a decision of 10 October 2019, appointed another state prosecutor who fluently speaks Italian. There have been no problems regarding operations in Italian.

No state prosecutor with a command of Hungarian is currently employed with the Murska Sobota District State Prosecutor's Office; however, they have an employee with a good command of Hungarian who performs the work of a senior judicial adviser and acts as an interpreter in business operations with clients. They have few Hungarian-speaking clients, and they have not had any problems in dealings with them. If a client submits an application in Hungarian, the prosecutor's decision is also translated into Hungarian.

In this respect, the competent Ministry of Justice adds that, the amendment to the State Prosecutor's Order (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No. 64/19, hereinafter: the SPO), which entered into force in 26 October 2019, also regulates state prosecutor's cards. The new paragraph eight of Article 38 of the SPO stipulates that, in areas where State Prosecutor's Offices also operate in Italian or Hungarian, official cards with the text in Slovenian and Italian or Hungarian are issued.

e) Activities under measure 5.5 "The implementation of national community language courses"

In the Republic of Slovenia, pursuant to Article 74a of the Courts Act, the Judicial Training Centre, which is responsible for professional training and training for work in judicial authorities, was established within the Ministry of Justice in 2006.

Legal terminology workshops for judicial officials and judicial staff were included in the programme of work of the Judicial Training Centre for 2017, but were not carried out that year. That is why they were again included in the programme of work of the Judicial Training Centre for 2018 and began to be carried out in 2018: at the beginning of 2018, two workshops on the legal terminology of minority languages were carried out, namely a Hungarian language workshop intended for judicial officials at courts and state prosecutor's offices tasked with conducting bilingual proceedings, which was held on 22 February 2018, and an Italian language workshop intended for judicial officials at courts and state prosecutor's offices tasked with conducting bilingual proceedings, which was held on 27 March 2018. On 20 March 2018 another two workshops were held, namely a workshop on Italian legal terminology, which was intended for judicial staff at courts, state prosecutors' offices and state attorneys' offices participating in bilingual proceedings, and a workshop on Hungarian legal terminology, which

was also intended for court staff at courts, state prosecutors' offices and state attorneys' offices participating in bilingual proceedings. Due to the high level of interest, the workshop on Italian legal terminology for judicial staff was repeated on 17 April 2018.

With regard to these activities², we would like to add that two workshops were carried out in 2019, namely a workshop on Italian legal terminology, which was intended for judicial officials at courts and state prosecutor's offices tasked with conducting bilingual proceedings, and a workshop on Hungarian legal terminology, which was intended for judicial officials at courts and state prosecutor's offices tasked with conducting bilingual proceedings and for judicial staff at courts, state prosecutors' offices and state attorneys' offices participating in bilingual proceedings. Both workshops were held on 16 May 2019 at Koper District Court³ and Lendava Local Court.⁴ A workshop on Italian legal terminology, which was intended for judicial staff at courts, state prosecutors' offices and state attorneys' offices participating in bilingual proceedings, was also held on 30 May 2019.⁵

The programme of the Judicial Training Centre for 2020 envisages the same scope of courses on Italian and Hungarian legal terminology as in 2018 and 2019.

The Republic of Slovenia reiterates that the Ministry of Justice provides the appropriate regulatory basis for the exercise of rights of national minorities on the basis of the Constitution and laws. When it comes to planning and implementing measures in the area of bilingual operations in national authorities, the role of the aforementioned Ministry is considerably more limited or different in nature, since the Ministry as part of the executive branch of power, through proposals for relevant substantive, procedural and organisational legislation in the area of justice, particularly at the normative level, guarantees and exercises the constitutionally and legally guaranteed rights of national communities.

In the Republic of Slovenia, in the field of education, the Act Amending the Act Regulating Special Rights of Members of the Italian and Hungarian National Communities in the Field of Education (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No. 11/18) was adopted.

By way of the amendment, short-cycle higher education and education of children, minors and young adults with special needs are added to the fields of education in which members of the Italian and Hungarian national communities have special rights.

The amendment also provides that, in bilingual areas, the curricula, knowledge catalogues and examination catalogues must be published bilingually and that pupils and students of bilingual schools must be provided with bilingual assignments in all knowledge competitions (with the exception of Slovenian and Hungarian) which are (co-)financed from public funds.

In order to ensure access to schools with Italian as the language of instruction for members of national communities, members of national communities are guaranteed the right to enrol their child in a school using Italian as the language of instruction or in a bilingual school even if they

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http://www.mp.gov.si/si/izobrazevanje_v_pravosodju_cip/izobrazevanja_v_sloveniji/izobrazevanja_za_sodnike_dr_zavne_tozilce_in_drzavne_odvetnike/

3

http://www.mp.gov.si/fileadmin/mp.gov.si/pageuploads/CIP/2019/10.4.2019.NS1.Program_Pravna_terminologija_j_eziko_16.5._Koper.pdf

4

http://www.mp.gov.si/fileadmin/mp.gov.si/pageuploads/CIP/2019/10.4.2019.NS.Program_Pravna_terminologija_je_ziko_madzarski_jezik.pdf

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http://www.mp.gov.si/fileadmin/mp.gov.si/pageuploads/CIP/2019/11.4.2019.NS.Program_Pravna_terminologija_je_ziko_30.5_.pdf

do not live in the school district (in this case, however, the child does not have the right to free transportation). At the same time, primary schools outside the ethnically mixed areas are obliged to offer the extracurricular activity of learning Italian or Hungarian if they have at least five pupils who are members of either the Italian or Hungarian national communities.

With the purpose of ensuring access to bilingual schools and integration in the environment, the amendment introduces the following possibility for bilingual schools: the bilingual school programme is in Slovenian as the language of instruction and the learning of Hungarian as the language of the environment is compulsory. This is an adapted programme intended for children with special needs who live outside the ethnically mixed areas and are not members of the national community, but their parents have an interest in them being integrated in the bilingual environment.

The amendment also changes the manner of decision-making in councils of bilingual educational institutions. As regards the participation of the self-governing national community in the process of adopting the annual work plan, the proposed act introduces a special feature in relation to the law governing the organisation and financing of education, as it enables the national community to have greater influence on the organisation of educational contents. The self-governing national community must give an opinion on the proposal for the annual work plan of a school and can also make proposals for above-standard programmes.

The act also changes the criteria relating to the knowledge of Italian and Hungarian (language of instruction) and taking the professional certification exam.

The amendment also refers to the organisation of the National Education Institute Slovenia, within which a special professional service for the education of national communities will be set up to provide research, advisory and expert support.

The Republic of Slovenia stresses that the education of national communities is the integral part of the national school system and is therefore systemically financed by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.

In the area of ensuring the special rights of the autochthonous Italian and Hungarian national communities, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport advocates positive discrimination and will, as part of the action plan in this area, continue implementing two special measures (funds of the European Social Fund), namely:

- *The measure "to increase the quality of education of national communities for the Hungarian national community living in Slovenia and the Slovenian national community living in Hungary"*

The eligible costs of the project total EUR 360,000. The operation runs from 1 June 2016 to 31 August 2020.

There is a need for additional training for teaching staff in the context of specific needs in bilingual education institutions.

The purpose of the project is to enable children enrolled in education at all levels in the Hungarian and Slovenian language to benefit from high-quality teaching staff with professional and teaching qualifications and from an additional learning support. It will provide members of the Hungarian and Slovenian minorities and indeed all children with better opportunities for education in the Hungarian and Slovenian language, raise their awareness, facilitate their integration in the environment and provide them with additional employment opportunities. The project is also aimed at upgrading or further developing the language and professional skills of the professional staff of educational institutions in Prekmurje and Porabje and at disseminating the educational system in bilingual educational institutions in Prekmurje and Porabje.

- *The measure "to increase the quality of education of national communities for the Italian national community in Slovenia and the Slovenian national community in Italy"*

The eligible costs of the project total EUR 360,000. The operation runs from 1 June 2016 to 31 August 2020.

There is a need for additional training for teaching staff in the context of specific needs in minority education institutions.

With regard to the development of Italian or Slovenian minority education, it has been established that attention should continue to be paid to changes in school practice in the given circumstances, since only some students have Italian or Slovenian as their first language, while many students use Italian or Slovenian as their second language or often as a foreign language of instruction. In future school years, it will become clear whether there is a need to upgrade the system, in particular, with an emphasis on the development of communication and language skills, which are an inherent part of any specific competences of teachers; findings and good school practice should be connected at all levels of education – from kindergarten to the *matura* examination.

For the aforementioned reasons, new models of learning and teaching where pre-school teachers, teachers and professors would cooperate with assistants (native speakers) should be developed. As part of the project, such model is being gradually introduced in kindergartens and schools with Italian as the language of instruction – a visiting teacher from Italy in Italian schools in Slovenia and a visiting teacher from Slovenia in Slovenian schools in Italy.

In the opinion of the competent ministry, human resources in mother tongue education are a very important factor in the quality of teaching and language reproduction.

7. Ensure without delay the effective implementation of anti-discrimination legislation and the proper functioning of the Advocate of the Principle of Equality by providing this institution with adequate powers and the necessary human and financial resources to carry out its mandate; support the ombudsperson through awareness-raising initiatives for persons belonging to national minorities and minority communities and the effective follow-up to this body's recommendations.

In the Republic of Slovenia, as of the entry into force of the amendment to the State Administration Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No. 51/16), the Ministry of Justice is the authority responsible, among other things, for examining and planning the exercise of fundamental human rights and freedoms; we would also like to explain that the competent authorities are constantly in contact with the Ombudsman regarding complaints considered by the Human Rights Ombudsman. With regard to the Ombudsman's recommendations and other findings in its regular annual reports, including recommendations and findings in the area of protection of national minorities, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia prepares a response report each year in which it takes a position regarding each recommendation. In its response, it sets out the implemented and planned activities to implement the Ombudsman's recommendations.

To contribute to a more consistent and effective implementation of the Ombudsman's recommendations and address the shortcomings in respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Republic of Slovenia to which the Ombudsman draws attention in its annual reports, interim monitoring of the implementation of the recommendations of the Human Rights Ombudsman has been introduced. In March 2017, an interim review of the implementation of the recommendations of the Human Rights Ombudsman set out in the 21st regular Annual Report of the Human Rights Ombudsmen for 2015 was prepared for the first time. The Ombudsman also welcomed this kind of additional monitoring, which is still used by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, in its 23rd regular Annual Report of the Human Rights Ombudsmen for 2017.

It should be stressed that the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport operates in the spirit of increasing public awareness of the issue of "the erased", in particular, by means of learning material and professional training for teaching staff with a view to promoting mutual understanding and social integration.

In the Republic of Slovenia, pursuant to the Protection Against Discrimination Act, which entered into force in May 2016, a state body for equality was established in October 2016 – the Advocate of the Principle of Equality, which operates in the area of all personal circumstances on the basis of which discrimination is prohibited in all areas of social life. The Advocate carries out its statutory tasks and responsibilities both at the systemic and individual levels. In 2018, the Advocate was given administrative and technical autonomy; an independent structure was established, enabling the consideration of individual cases of reported discrimination and the performance of other tasks. In 2019, the Advocate was provided with additional funds and staff, which enable it to function properly and develop its capacity to carry out a wide range of statutory tasks and responsibilities. Setting up and ensuring the conditions for the operation of the Advocate is an important step forward in the area of protection against discrimination and the promotion of equality.

In 2018 the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities began to co-finance a project aimed at raising the awareness and improving the competencies of non-governmental organisations regarding the importance and strengthening of equality, understanding, and prevention of discrimination, and the possibilities of the protection of the most vulnerable groups in Slovenia against discrimination.

8. Consider providing opportunities for those 'erased' persons still living in Slovenia without a regular status to regularise their situation; take measures to raise the awareness of society as a whole on the issue of the 'erased', including in school material, in order to encourage mutual understanding and the integration of society.

To regularise the status of citizens of other republics of the former SFRY who were erased from the Register of Permanent Residents, the Republic of Slovenia in 2010 adopted the Act Amending the Act Regulating the Legal Status of Citizens of Former Yugoslavia Living in the Republic of Slovenia (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No. 50/10; hereinafter: the ZUSDDD-B). The National Assembly passed the aforementioned Act to finally regulate the legal status of persons erased from the Register of Permanent Residents. Pursuant to the aforementioned Act, a permanent residence permit may also be obtained by erased persons who do not reside in the Republic of Slovenia by reason of justifiable absence. Justifiable reasons set out in the Act also include cases where a person left Slovenia as a consequence of erasure or because they were unable to obtain a residence permit in Slovenia, or were unable to return to Slovenia because of war conditions in other successor states to the SFRY, or were forcibly removed from Slovenia, or were refused entry into Slovenia.

In accordance with the provisions of the ZUSDDD-B, a permanent residence permit may also be obtained by erased persons who, for example, have been living abroad since 1992 for a justified reason. The Act specifies a time limit of three years from the entry into force of the Act, i.e. by 24 July 2013, for submitting applications for permanent residence permits. The legislature deemed that such a period was sufficient to enable any interested person to become acquainted with the Act and to submit an application. For that purpose, the Ministry of the Interior issued a brochure containing information on the Act in the Slovenian language and the four languages of the successor states to the SFRY. All language versions of the brochure were available online and at all administrative units in the Republic of Slovenia and diplomatic missions and consular posts of the Republic of Slovenia in the successor states to the SFRY. The brochure was also distributed to NGOs. Despite dissemination of information about the

ZUSDDD-B, not all erased persons used the option to submit an application. They did not show any interest in regularising their status.

The content of the Act was also assessed by the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Slovenia, which in its decision No. U-II-1/10 of 10 June 2010 ruled that the requested referendum is inadmissible and that the ZUSDDD-B eliminated, in a manner consistent with the Constitution, the unconstitutionality established in the decision of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Slovenia No. U-I-246/02-28 of 3 April 2003. By way of Order No. U-I-48/13 of 8 January 2015, by which the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Slovenia decided on the petition of the Association of the Erased of Slovenia for the review of the constitutionality of the ZUSDDD-B, the Constitutional Court rejected the petition in part relating to the existence of a lacuna in the ZUSDDD-B as manifestly unfounded. In the opinion of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Slovenia, under the ZUSDDD-B, a permanent residence permit could also be obtained by erased persons who do not reside in the Republic of Slovenia if they intended to return to the Republic of Slovenia.

In 2013, the Republic of Slovenia adopted a special act that regulates the compensation for the damage sustained by the erased, namely the Act Regulating the Compensation for Damage Sustained as a Result of Erasure from the Register of Permanent Residents (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No. 99/13), which entered into force on 18 December 2013 and started to apply on 18 June 2014. As regards damage caused by erasure, the Act provides for the right to monetary compensation and entitlement to other forms of just satisfaction to compensate for the damage suffered.

In addition to other forms of just satisfaction, the Act provides for participation and priority treatment in integration programmes facilitating inclusion into the cultural, economic and social life of the Republic of Slovenia.

The Act Amending the Act Regulating the Compensation for Damage Sustained as a Result of Erasure from the Register of Permanent Residents (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No. 85/18; hereinafter: the ZPŠOIRSP-A), which was adopted to implement Decision of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Slovenia No. U-I-80/16-36, U-I-166/16-28, U-I-173/16-33 of 15 March 2018 (hereinafter: Decision of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Slovenia) and entered into force on 30 December 2018, eliminated the unconstitutionality of Article 12 of the ZPŠOIRSP established in the Decision of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Slovenia. The amended Article 12 of the ZPŠOIRSP eliminates the limitation on the amount of monetary compensation in court proceedings and regulates in a new manner the default interest determined for beneficiaries in court proceedings. Beneficiaries are entitled to the payment of the entire principal amount of compensation for pecuniary or non-pecuniary damage suffered as established in court proceedings, with the limitation of default interest, which is determined in court proceedings to the principal amount of compensation awarded. The amended arrangement applies to beneficiaries from the second group of injured parties as defined by the Decision of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Slovenia, i.e. injured parties who submitted their compensation claims against the state after the start of application of the ZPŠOIRSP, i.e. after 18 June 2014, or before the start of application of the ZPŠOIRSP, i.e. before 18 June 2014, but under the previous arrangement their claims would fall within the statute of limitation. For the first group injured parties, i.e. injured parties who submitted their compensation claims against the state before the start of application of the ZPŠOIRSP (before 18 June 2014) and whose claims were not statute-barred upon submission, the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Slovenia, by way of its decision, repealed Article 12 of the ZPŠOIRSP with immediate effect. The Constitutional Court has assessed that limiting the amount of monetary compensation in court proceedings is inconsistent with the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia and that, regarding the extent of reimbursement of pecuniary damage, injured parties are entitled to full compensation, and regarding just satisfaction for non-pecuniary damage, to just monetary compensation.

We additionally explain that, as far back as 1999, with the entry into force of the Act Regulating the Legal Status of Citizens of Former Yugoslavia Living in the Republic of Slovenia (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No. 61/99; hereinafter: the ZUSDDD), citizens of other republics of the former SFRY who were erased from the Register of Permanent Residents had the opportunity to regularise their status, i.e. obtain a permanent residence permit in the Republic of Slovenia, on the basis of provisions of the aforementioned Act.

With regard to the regularisation of status, the Republic of Slovenia considers that, for persons erased from the Register of Permanent Residents, the said issue has been appropriately regulated in a special act, which enables erased persons to obtain a permanent residence permit. Erased persons who failed to apply for a permanent residence permit under the act governing status (ZUSDDD-B), or whose applications were not granted, can regularise their status, i.e. obtain a permanent residence permit in the Republic of Slovenia, under the conditions laid down in the Foreigners Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No. 1/18 – UPB6 and 9/18 – corr.).

In this respect, we would like to add that, by way of the Act Amending the Foreigners Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No. 59/17), which started to apply on 1 January 2018, the provision of Article 51 the Foreigners Act was amended which regulates the issuance of a residence permit on the basis of other reasonable grounds and when in the interest of the Republic of Slovenia. The amendment also lays down that a temporary residence permit with a validity of two years (which may be extended) may be issued to a foreigner who has been allowed to stay in the Republic of Slovenia for at least 24 months and whose removal from the country is not possible, and there are other reasonable grounds and special personal circumstances justifying their residence in the Republic of Slovenia. Other reasonable grounds and specific personal circumstances may be, for example, personal, social, cultural or other ties linking a foreigner to the Republic of Slovenia due to their long-term (including unlawful) residence in the Republic of Slovenia.

9. Continue ensuring adequate support to radio and television broadcasting for the Italian, Hungarian and Roma national minorities, in consultation with their representatives; increase support for media in the languages of other national communities with a view to promoting and preserving their identities.

The Republic of Slovenia explains that the Ministry of Culture has always complied with this recommendation in accordance with the arrangements laid down in the Radiotelevizija Slovenija Act and the Mass Media Act.

Radio-Television Slovenia (hereinafter: RTV Slovenia) provides national minority programmes for the Italian national community via its regional RTV centre in Koper and for the Hungarian national community via its regional RTV centre in Maribor with its studio in Lendava in the form of regional programmes and certain broadcasts on the national television programmes. The participation of minorities in the management of the programmes is fully provided for. In practice, programmes are actually provided in three minority languages, mostly by staff who are members of the three nationalities. The indicative annual scope of these programmes is as follows:

- 3,350 hours of television programming and 8,760 hours of radio programming for the Italian national community;
- 100 hours of television programming and 4,700 hours of radio programming for the Hungarian national community;
- 24 hours of television programming and 52 hours of radio programming per year for the Roma community.

The Italian and Hungarian national communities participate in drawing up programme guidelines and in monitoring national community programmes and all programmes of RTV Slovenia. On the basis of the Radiotelevizija Slovenia Act, two independent programme committees operate for the programmes of the Italian and Hungarian communities. The committees also cooperate with the central Programme Board, which adopts, upon the proposal of the RTV Slovenia management, annual programme production plans for all programmes and monitors their implementation. Each national community also has one member on the Programme Board.

In accordance with the Mass Media Act, media intended for new or other minority communities or published by these communities may also submit their applications in the regular annual public call for the co-financing of media programmes with public funds. Moreover, such programmes also provide positive discrimination, as the assessment of the projects submitted also takes into account the following two legal criteria:

- ensuring compliance with the principles of cultural diversity, equal opportunities and tolerance;
- enabling the exercise of the right to inform the public and be informed by local and minority communities and the dissemination of content in minority languages.

Under a regular annual public call for the co-financing of media programmes in the period from 2017 to 2019, financial support was granted to the following two projects:

- Applicant: Institute for the Information Activity of the Hungarian National Community (not co-financed in 2018 because it did not apply under the public call): for contributions in the weekly *Nepuisag* (in 2017, the "Manjšina o manjšini" (Minority on Minority) project — contributions aimed at obtaining new, younger readers, and media education for youth; in 2019, the "Manjšina v zrcalu zgodovine" (A Minority in the History's Mirror) project — the contributions of authors working on a part-time basis). *Nepuisag* is a weekly magazine of the Hungarian national minority in Slovenia. The aim of the magazine is to provide information to members of the Hungarian national minority in their mother tongue. The project focuses on presenting, actively monitoring and commenting on various events related to the national community and events taking place in ethnically mixed and bilingual areas in the Pomurje region which affect the lives of minority members and the exercise of special rights of the autochthonous national community. The published content contributes to the preservation of the language and culture of the minority community, while enabling the proper integration of national community members into the social environment of the majority population. As the only printed medium in Hungarian, it informs members of this community in their mother tongue and ensures the preservation of their culture and language. The magazine plays an important role in knowing, integrating and accepting the minority by the majority population;
- Applicant: Roma Union of Slovenia, the "Most sožitja" (Bridge of Coexistence) project on Radio Romic. Radio Romic is a broadcaster of the Roma community and other communities; their programme, Bridge of Coexistence, focuses on stories which counter prejudice against the Roma as one of the most visible vulnerable groups in Slovenia. The broadcasts are in the Slovenian language and partly in Romani. The radio's target audience is the Roma and non-Roma communities in the Prekmurje region and beyond (Slovenians, Roma and Hungarians) and its main role is primarily to encourage communities to engage in tolerant and harmonious cooperation, to raise awareness and the visibility of different cultures, origins, histories and common past. Radio Romic strives to preserve Roma values and the Romani language and also collects literature on the Roma and literature by Roma authors. It encourages members of the Roma community to be actively engaged in social activities within Roma organisations and other organisations.

In the Republic of Slovenia, as part of financing regular cultural programmes of the Italian and Hungarian national community, the Ministry of Culture finances cultural activities and projects in the area of media in the languages of the two national communities (mainly printed issues) that have been submitted by the central organisations of the national communities.

Under the public call for proposals in the area of the Roma community, the Ministry of Culture finances cultural projects submitted by non-governmental organisations which unite members of the Roma community and by self-employed persons. These are mostly printed media (newspaper, publications) and Roma shows broadcast on internet radio (e.g. the *Anglunipe* radio station of the *Anglunipe* society from Ljubljana) and radio shows broadcast on the ROMIC private radio station (of the Roma Union of Slovenia).

Through the Government Office for National Minorities, the Republic of Slovenia supports and co-finances radio and television programmes for the Italian and Hungarian national communities and the Roma community pursuant to Article 30 of the Radiotelevizija Slovenija Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], Nos 96/05, 109/05 – ZDavP-1B, 105/06 – Constitutional Court Decision, 26/09 – ZIPRS0809-B and 9/14), which lays down that the part of national community programmes that is not financed from licence fees is financed by funds from the state budget. The basis for supporting the aforementioned programmes is also provided by the Mass Media Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No. 110/06 – official consolidated version, 36/08 – ZPOMK-1, 77/10 – ZSFCJA, 90/10 – Constitutional Court Decision, 87/11 – ZAvMS, 47/12, 47/15 – ZZSDT, 22/16 and 39/16); Article 4 of the Mass Media Act provides, among other things, that the Republic of Slovenia supports the mass media in the creation and dissemination of programmes important for exercising the right of citizens of the Republic of Slovenia, Slovenians living abroad, members of the Slovenian national minorities in Italy, Austria and Hungary, the Hungarian and Italian national communities in the Republic of Slovenia, and the Roma community in Slovenia to inform the public and be informed.

At the end of each year, RTV Slovenia submits to the Government Office for National Minorities the proposed programming and financial plan of RTV programmes for the Italian and Hungarian national communities and the Roma community for the following year. After examining the programme, the Government Office concludes two annual contracts with RTV Slovenia, one for co-financing radio and television programmes for the Italian and Hungarian national community and one for co-financing radio and television programmes for the Roma community. The Government Office often receives information on the preparation and implementation of RTV programmes for the Italian and Hungarian national communities and the Roma community "from the field" from representatives or organisations of the Italian or Hungarian national community and the Roma community.

For RTV programmes for the Italian and Hungarian national communities, the Government Office for National Minorities has in recent years provided funds (in EUR) as follows:

2015	2016	2017	2018
1,392,237.00	1,492,237.00	1,492,237.00	1,512,237.00

For RTV programmes for the Roma community, the Government Office for National Minorities has in recent years provided funds (in EUR) as follows:

2015	2016	2017	2018
183,000.00	183,000.00	183,000.00	183,000.00

10. Raise awareness of minority rights and of diversity of society in general education and ensure that curricula, textbooks and teaching materials adequately reflect this diversity; support the development of teaching materials in varieties of the Romani language in close co-operation with representatives of the Roma communities, as well as increase their teaching; provide teaching of and the possibility to learn other minority languages taking into consideration the needs of the potential beneficiaries.

In the Republic of Slovenia, the competent Ministry of Education, Science and Sport continues to co-finance supplementary courses in mother tongue and culture for children of other nationalities. Around 350–380 pupils attend these courses each year. Courses are carried out in Macedonian, German, Russian, Hungarian, French, Chinese, Albanian and Croatian, and sometimes in other languages. The range of languages and the number of children involved depend on the current organisation of the community of members of other nationalities in Slovenia. The Ministry allocates approximately EUR 20,000 annually for this activity. The list of languages, the number of children and the amount of funds allocated are publicly available on the website of the Ministry ([Language Education](#)).

A poster was prepared and printed in 2017 saying "*Only one mother tongue is your own. Preserve the language close to you. Take part in mother tongue courses for children of immigrants.*" The poster is aimed at raising the awareness of children of other nationalities about the possibility of attending a supplementary mother tongue course and the awareness of the general population about the fact that many children do not have Slovenian as their first language. The poster is distributed on different occasions and is available to teachers who teach supplementary courses at the ministry.

To raise awareness of the rights of minorities in Slovenia and the diversity of society in general education, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport works to ensure that curricula, textbooks and teaching materials adequately reflect this diversity.

11. Ensure the effective functioning of the Roma Community Council, including by revising the rules on its composition and its functioning with a view to strengthening Roma participation in the decision-making process; encourage participation and representation of all Roma in decision making at the local level, in particular in those areas inhabited by this minority in substantial numbers.

The Republic of Slovenia explains that, in accordance with the Roma Community in the Republic of Slovenia Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No. 33/07; hereinafter: the ZRomS-1), the umbrella organisation of the Roma community in Slovenia is the Roma Community Council of the Republic of Slovenia (hereinafter: the Council). The council is a legal person governed by public law and represents the interests of the Roma community in Slovenia in relation to national authorities. The functioning of the Council is defined in detail by the Rules of procedure of the Roma Community Council of the Republic of Slovenia (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], Nos 94/07 and 42/16).

In accordance with the applicable Act, the Council consists of 21 members, of whom 14 are representatives of the Roma Union of Slovenia and seven are representatives of the Roma community in the councils of self-governing local communities (Roma councillors).

The Council is re-established after each local election. Activities related to the establishment of the Council are performed by the Government Office for National Minorities. Following the local elections in 2018, the Government Office for National Minorities called on the Roma Union of Slovenia to appoint 14 of its members to the Council; for the appointment of seven representatives of the Roma community to the councils of self-governing local community

(Roma councillors), the Government Office must hold elections in accordance with the ZRomS-1. Such elections were held on 5 February 2019, but were unsuccessful since no Roma councillors took part in them, and the Government Office for National Minorities received only three applications. Since the Roma Union of Slovenia appointed 14 representatives, the Government Office for National Minorities, despite the fact that no Roma councillors were elected, convened a constituent meeting on 12 February 2019 to comply with the Act and statutory deadlines. The Council was successfully established on 12 February 2019 with the re-election of Jožef Horvat Sandreli as its president. The current situation is that the Council has been established and can thus operate without interruption, but does not include Roma councillors as its members. In order to clarify the situation, find out the reasons for non-participation in the elections and discuss further steps to be taken, the Government Office for National Minorities on 21 February 2019 convened a working meeting with all the elected Roma councillors. The position of the Roma councillors present at the meeting was that the Government Office for National Minorities should wait before calling an election to the Council again since the Council is already established and should carry out its work. The opinion or position of Roma councillors on possible cooperation during the council's current term also depends on the attitude of the operating part of the Council and its work to the benefit of the Roma community.

The Council's operation is co-financed by the Republic of Slovenia. In 2018, a total of EUR 347,297.97 were allocated to the Council on the basis of the programme of work (of which EUR 30,000.00 for the implementation of the public call for proposals for the implementation of programmes and projects of Roma societies in 2018, EUR 183,300.00 for the implementation of the public call for proposals for co-financing programmes of activities of organisations of the Roma community (associations) in 2018 and EUR 997.97 for the purchase of a printer).

In 2019, a total of EUR 342,327.00 were allocated to the Council on the basis of the programme of work (of which EUR 19,327.00 for the implementation of the public call for proposals for the implementation of programmes and projects of Roma societies in 2019 and EUR 190,000.00 for the implementation of the public call for proposals for co-financing programmes of activities of organisations of the Roma community (associations) in 2019).

With regard to efforts to ensure the Council's successful operation, the Republic of Slovenia explains that, at the proposal of the Government Office for National Minorities, a working meeting was held on the Council's premises in Murska Sobota on 31 January 2019 to discuss the Council's responsibilities and performance of tasks and address the issue of how to optimise the Council's operation and performance of tasks and further strengthen its cooperation with the Government Office for National Minorities.

On the basis of this meeting and after the establishment of the Council on 12 March 2019, the Government Office for National Minorities, as agreed, prepared a special letter notifying all ministries and government offices that, in accordance with the ZRomS-1, the Council is an umbrella organisation of the Roma community and as such represents the interests of the Roma community in Slovenia in relation to national authorities and is an entity governed by public law. In said notification, the Government Office for National Minorities provided all ministries and government offices with the contact details of the Council, stressing that it is necessary to comply with the legislative provision of paragraph two of Article 12 of the Act, which lays down that national authorities, holders of public authorisations and authorities of self-governing local communities must obtain the prior opinion of the Council for the purposes of adopting and issuing regulations and other general legal acts relating to the status of the Roma community. Paragraph one of Article 12 also lays down that the Council may present proposals, initiatives and opinions in matters under its competence to the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia, National Council of the Republic of Slovenia, Government, other national authorities, holders of public authorisations and authorities of self-governing local communities.

With regard to decision-making at the local level, the Republic of Slovenia explains that on 12 July 2018 the Ministry of Public Administration, as part of preparations for local elections in 2018, convened a special meeting for secretaries of all special municipal electoral commissions (for the election of representatives of the two national communities and the Roma community), which was also attended by representatives of the National Electoral Commission and the Ministry of the Interior. The Ministry provided professional, administrative and information support in writing and by telephone. Following the elections on 18 November 2018, on 13 December 2018 the representative of the Ministry (the head of the Local Self-Government Service, Dr Lavtar) delivered a lecture entitled "A municipal council and the role of a Roma councillor" for the newly elected Roma councillors within the National Platform for Roma project, which is led by the Government Office for National Minorities.

In view of the above, we consider that the recommendation of the Advisory Committee No. 89, namely that participation and representation of all Roma in decision making at local level should be improved, has already been implemented considering that the turnout in the election of a representative of the Roma community was 46.6%, which means that it is marginally lower than the overall turnout in local elections in 2018, which was 49.15%.

In addition, we would like to stress that strengthening the representation of Roma in decision-making at the local level, in particular in areas where many members of this community reside, is also one of the objectives of the National Platform for Roma project, which is carried out by the Government Office for National Minorities, since, as part the project, support is provided to Roma councillors in the form of training courses to help them carry out their role in municipal councils as best they can and thus contribute to the full participation of the Roma community in the local community.

12. Step up efforts to increase employment for Roma, on the basis of reliable data and in consultation with the minority's representatives, as well as develop empowerment activities for girls and women within the framework of the National Programme of Measures for the Roma for the Period 2017–2021.

With regard to efforts to increase employment for Roma, see the answer to Article 15 of the Framework Convention in Part III of this report.

On 25 May 2017, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the National Programme of Measures for Roma for the Period 2017–2021 (the 2017–2021 NPMR), which is the main programming document in this area and comprises mostly targeted measures to facilitate the integration of members of the Roma community into society. With regard to the 2017–2021 NPMR, it should be stressed that the programme is aimed at improving the status of Roma community members, facilitating their social integration and reducing their social exclusion in all areas where this is deemed necessary based on the previous experience of national authorities, municipalities, the Roma community and civil society organisations. The measures concern various areas of social life with an emphasis on raising the education level, reducing unemployment, improving health care and living conditions, eliminating prejudices, stereotypes and discrimination, preserving the Roma culture, language and identity, and promoting informative endeavours and publishing among the Roma community. The authorities responsible for the measures under the 2017–2021 NPMR are competent ministries and government offices; in accordance with the constitutional and legal arrangements, municipalities as units of the local self-government also have powers in this area (e.g. spatial planning, implementation of the housing policy etc.) and carry out many measures tailored to the needs in the local environment.

Furthermore, the Republic of Slovenia co-finances the Roma Community Council, which provides funds to Roma societies and associations on the basis of calls for proposals to

facilitate the implementation of programmes for strengthening the role of Roma girls and women.

PART III

Further measures adopted to improve the implementation of the Framework Convention

Article 3 of the Framework Convention

Personal scope of application
(Reply to Recommendation No. 20)

The Republic of Slovenia clarifies that the Institute for Ethnic Studies has already carried out a longitudinal study on the importance of schools in the bilingual area in the Prekmurje region in order to maintain the vitality of the Hungarian national community. A similar study has been envisaged this year for the coastal area where the Italian national minority lives.

Article 4 of the Framework Convention

Legal and institutional framework for the protection against the
discrimination of persons belonging to national minorities
(Reply to Recommendation No. 25)

The Republic of Slovenia clarifies that both traditional national communities and the Roma community in the Republic of Slovenia enjoy a high level of legal protection through the international conventions ratified by Slovenia and thus form an integral part of the Slovenian legal system, the supreme law of the country, the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia, and through a number of statutory and implementing acts.

The legal basis for regulating the status of the Roma community in the Republic of Slovenia is provided by Article 65 of the Slovenian Constitution, which specifies that the status and special rights of the Roma community living in Slovenia are regulated by law. This established a legal framework for protective measures to regulate the status of the Roma community. The consistent implementation of the constitutional provision has made it possible to adopt the Roma Community Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No. 33/07, hereinafter: ZRomS-1) in 2007. Furthermore, the protection of the Roma community is also enshrined in other sector-specific laws.⁶ In addition to the sector-specific laws, a number of programmes, strategies and resolutions in individual social areas provide for the exercise of rights of the Roma community and for the improvement of its status.

During the Government's previous term of office, the draft Act Amending the Roma Community Act was drawn up and coordinated. The amending Act was adopted by the Government on 1 March 2018 and submitted the National Assembly for consideration. Due to the early dissolution of the National Assembly, it was not discussed by the National Assembly.

When considering the Fifth Report of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on the status of the Roma community in Slovenia at its session held on 28 November 2018, the National Assembly adopted the following recommendation: "The National Assembly recommends that the Government immediately take steps to improve the situation of the Roma community in Slovenia and, as soon as possible, in cooperation with representatives of the Roma community, representatives of self-governing local communities and other stakeholders, draft appropriate amendments to the Roma Community Act." In the coming period, the drafting of the amendments to the applicable Roma Community Act or the drafting of a new Act, depending on the political standpoint, will again be subject to discussion.

⁶ Local Self-Government Act, Local Elections Act, Voting Rights Register Act, Organisation and Financing of Education Act, Basic School Act, Kindergartens Act, Mass Media Act, Exercising of the Public Interest in Culture Act, Librarianship Act, Promotion of Balanced Regional Development Act, Radiotelevizija Slovenija Act, Cultural Heritage Protection Act, Criminal Code of the Republic of Slovenia, Public Interest in the Youth Sector Act, Slovenian Press Agency Act.

Legal and institutional framework for the promotion of equal treatment
(Reply to Recommendations Nos 30 and 31)

See the reply under point 7 of Part II of this report.

Measures for the promotion of full and effective equality for persons
belonging to national minorities
(Reply to Recommendation No. 37)

The Republic of Slovenia explains that the responsible Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning (hereinafter: the MESP), within the scope of its activities to date to ensure adequate living conditions for the Roma population, has implemented a series of measures to define the areas of Roma settlements and their infrastructure in the context of the drawing-up of municipal strategic and implementing spatial planning documents, which, in accordance with the applicable legislation, provide the only legal basis for the legalisation and inclusion in the settlement system of municipalities. The adopted spatial planning documents are also a condition for obtaining funds from different national and EU resources allocated for balanced spatial development.

The above stated is a precondition to "ensure the security of tenure for the Roma living in informal settlements", as the tenure right is linked to the property right or the right to private property, which is guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia. A problem arises when the property of another is usurped, meaning that a settlement, part of a settlement or an individual building is situated on land in respect of which the Roma cannot demonstrate the property right or the right to build. In such cases, the MESP seeks to reach an agreement with individual municipalities as land owners so that, after the adoption of spatial planning documents, they carry out the land subdivision of the property concerned, ensure community infrastructure and sell individual plots of land to the Roma who are interested in buying them at a symbolic price or in instalments. The Roma, of course, must also demonstrate a serious intention to fulfil their part of the obligations. In the case of individual owners, there is a contractual relationship between the seller and the buyer, and the municipality may also participate as a mediator. The MESP does not have the funds to buy land and its community infrastructure. As yet the state has not taken action instead of inactive local communities as this would be an encroachment on the original right of municipalities; furthermore, it would also not be possible to achieve social acceptability for such interference in the local environment.

The Inter-Ministerial Working Group has also established in its final report that it is necessary to ensure continuous coordination between ministries in the area of addressing spatial issues of Roma settlements and that such continuous inter-ministerial coordination should be established at the government level since the effectiveness of addressing the issues concerned largely depends on the degree of empowerment of members of the Roma community and is therefore beyond the competence of the MESP.

The Inter-Ministerial Working Group has further established that the area of spatial issues related to Roma settlements is regulated by a number of acts that mostly do not fall within the competence of the MESP. Consequently, before drafting a special act for the intervention regulation of Roma settlements, a comprehensive review of the legislation should be made to establish if any amendments are necessary due to such intervention regulation of spatial issues.

Article 5 of the Framework Convention

Support for the preservation and development of national minority identities and cultures
(Reply to Recommendation No. 42)

The Republic of Slovenia explains that the competent Ministry of Culture, on an annual basis, provides financial support to the cultural programmes of the Italian and Hungarian national communities and the cultural projects of the Roma community and will continue to do so. The Italian and the Hungarian national communities are themselves proponents of the activities funded under the regular annual programmes. In 2019, the budgetary appropriation for their cultural programmes even increased. With respect to the Roma community, non-governmental organisations (not only those involving members of the Roma community) and the self-employed register projects according to their needs. The Ministry supports diverse projects, in particular those that enable not only the preservation but also the development, sustainability and promotion of Roma culture, language and identity.

In the framework of the call for proposals for the selection of cultural projects regarding members of the German-speaking ethnic group, the Ministry of Culture supports projects that enable the preservation, development and promotion of the culture, language and identity of members of that group. The Ministry seeks to increase the funding for 2020.

The Republic of Slovenia Public Fund for Cultural Activities annually supports cultural projects of non-governmental organisations that contribute to:

- promoting the quality cultural creativity of members of minority ethnic communities and immigrants;
- preserving the cultural identity of members of minority ethnic communities and immigrants to meet the expressed cultural needs;
- supporting quality projects that are important for the cultural development of minority ethnic communities and immigrants;
- increasing the diversity of cultural events and improving the accessibility of cultural content;
- presenting the culture of minority ethnic communities and immigrants to the wider environment;
- integrating the creativity of minority ethnic communities in the Slovenian cultural area;
- developing quality cultural education programmes in the area of minority ethnic communities and immigrants.

Article 6 of the Framework Convention

Tolerance and intercultural dialogue (Reply to Recommendation No. 51)

The Republic of Slovenia explains that the National Programme of Measures for Roma for the Period 2017–2021 defines the third police measure as the "Implementation of police work in the community" that aims to strengthen the partnership with the local community and advocate an effective resolution of various security needs. Such a partnership enables information to be retrieved for the timely detection of safety issues. The police work and preventive activities in the community are focused on the direct work of the police with the Roma community and the resolution of individual problematic issues together with other entities. As part of their operation, the police have strengthened preventive activities in the Roma community. In this process, the police actively cooperate as an interface with various consultative bodies, expert and multidisciplinary teams, including representatives of the Roma community and also influence the dynamics of action. The direct work of these teams has a significant effect on preventing all problems and on identifying and implementing measures upon the detection of all the issues and violations of the positive legislation. In carrying out police work in the Roma community, the police have consistently exercised the fundamental tasks stipulated by the Police Tasks and Powers Act, the Organisation and Work of Police Act, the Police Rules, the

Medium-Term Plan for the Development of Police Work 2013–2017 and the Resolution on the Long-Term Development of the Police until 2025. The key objectives are contained in the strategic document of the General Police Directorate, i.e. the 2013 Strategy on Police Work in the Community, and the Resolution on the Long-term Development of the Police until 2025.

These include in particular:

- increased partnership cooperation with the local community, state authorities and civil society;
- enhanced visibility and presence of police officers in local communities;
- increased sense of security;
- enhanced public trust in, and satisfaction with, the work of the police and effective prevention and investigation of crimes.

Another form of police work in the community is its active role in security panels of municipalities and local communities populated by the Roma community. In certain, most heavily burdened, local communities, the activities of these security panels have already been implemented. The exchange of information and identification of security issues regarding police work have a clear positive impact on building trust in the work of the police in areas with Roma settlements. However, it should be noted that local communities have not yet recognised the advantages of such an approach to resolving and addressing problem situations. The police will seek to adequately present the impact of establishing consultative bodies or introducing a multidisciplinary approach. It should also be noted that another part of police work in the community is police participation in municipal commissions for resolving Roma issues or monitoring the situation of the Roma community. The police have also been involved in the drafting of municipal strategies to resolve Roma issues and participate in meetings of commissions that deal with concrete problems.

The scope of police work in a multicultural society and with the subcultural groups systemically falls under the Research and Social Skills Centre of the Police Academy of the General Police Directorate (hereinafter: RSSC PA GPD). In this context, a permanent working group of the General Police Directorate (hereinafter: GPD) also takes part in various activities.

– *Activities carried out in 2017*

In 2017, Slovenian police directorates planned and carried out a total of 141 preventive activities in the Roma community, which were entered in the register of preventive activities (in accordance with the preventive work guidelines and the guidance on recording preventive activities). In the same year, the RSSC PA GPD and members of the permanent working group carried out 210 preventive activities in the Roma community; these were related to conducting informal interviews, counselling and alerting, holding meetings, raising awareness of individual issues, educating representatives of the Roma community and performing direct activities with the Roma community in the field.

In total, there were 351 preventive activities carried out in 2017.

– *Activities carried out in 2018*

In 2018, the Republic of Slovenia police directorates and police stations planned and carried out a total of 74 preventive activities that were entered in the register of preventive activities (in accordance with the preventive work guidelines and the guidance on recording preventive activities). In the same year, the RSSC PA GPD and the permanent working group of the GPD carried out 226 prevention activities in the Roma community. Diverse activities aimed at the Roma community were related to conducting meetings, informal interviews, counselling and alerting, raising awareness of individual issues, educating representatives of the Roma community and to performing direct activities with the Roma community in the field.

In total, there were 300 preventive activities carried out in 2018.

At all three levels, the Slovenian police actively cooperate with the legitimate representatives of the Roma community (Roma Community Council), Roma organisations and individuals. Working together with the Forum of Roma Councillors that represents Roma councillors who are elected representatives to municipal councils, regular meetings are held during which the police, the Roma community and the local community actively cooperate to address specific problem situations and seek solutions.

In 2017, cooperation with the legitimate representatives of the Roma community in Slovenia was further increased. In particular, the cooperation continued with the Roma Community Council as the umbrella organisation of the Roma community in Slovenia and with the Forum of Roma Councillors, in which the legitimate Roma community representatives elected to the municipal councils of the respective local communities also participate.

With a view to improving the dialogue and sharing the information needed to deal with the issue jointly, the meetings between the police and Roma councillors (in particular in the south-east of Slovenia) were introduced on the proposal of the Police. In 2017, three such meetings were held, namely on:

- 14 March 2017 in Novo mesto,
- 20 April 2017 in Kočevje, and on
- 22 August 2017 in Grosuplje (also attended by the Director of the Government Office for National Minorities).

The police representatives (GPD, Novo Mesto Police Station, Črnomelj Police Station) also attended the meeting with the President of the Association for the Development of the Roma Community and representatives of the Črnomelj Roma community, which was held on 14 March 2017 in Črnomelj.

In 2018, cooperation with the legitimate representatives of the Roma community in Slovenia continued. In the same year, the fourth joint meeting was held on

- 7 August 2018 at the premises of the Municipality of Trebnje (attendees were all institutions dealing with the Trebnje Roma community and representatives of the Government Office for National Minorities).

In 2017 and 2018 we cooperated with individual representatives of Roma associations, i.e. the Roma Union of Slovenia, the Association of the Roma Community of Slovenia Umbrella-Dežnik, the Association of the Roma community Preporod, the Association for the Development of the Črnomelj Roma Community. We conducted a series of informal interviews with the presidents of the associations, provided counselling and became engaged in addressing a range of problem situations that were either detected by the police or highlighted as an issue by other institutions.

In 2019, cooperation with Roma councillors continued through such meetings.

The Slovenian police have established close cooperation with the representatives of the Government Office for National Minorities. This was evident in 2017 and 2018, in particular in the exchange of information on the critical issues of concern that the police, through their community working method and the multidisciplinary approach in particular to the Roma community (as well as other multicultural communities), continuously address at regional and local levels.

Five meetings were held with the Director of the Government Office for National Minorities and his colleagues in 2017; three such meetings were held in 2018 where discussions were aimed

at finding systemic solutions to address problematic situations in the Roma community and strengthening inter-institutional cooperation at the local level.

In 2017, the police and the State Secretary of the Ministry of the Interior also attended three sessions held by the Government Commission for the protection of the Roma community, namely the 4th session held on 24 May, the 5th session on 12 July and the 6th session on 10 November 2017.

In 2018, a representative of the police and the State Secretary of the Ministry of the Interior attended three meetings of Government Commission for the protection of the Roma community, namely the 7th session held on 30 January, the 8th session on 14 July and the 9th session on 13 December 2018.

The police at all three levels actively participated in the projects undertaken by the Government Office for National Minorities through the National Roma Platform – SIFOROMA, SIFOROMA2 and SIFOROMA3, aimed at enhancing the consultation procedure, establishing an open and structured consultation procedure and fostering the exchange of good practice and experience. The police participated in the project during the identification of key challenges in resolving issues in the Roma community, on the basis of which the needs were determined and the measures developed.

In 2017 and 2018, the police actively participated in the Inter-Ministerial Working Group for the preparation of amendments to the Roma Community Act and the Inter-Ministerial Working Group for resolving the housing situation in Roma settlements.

In Slovenia, the police pay particular attention to their work in local communities composed of different multicultural communities. In this context, contacts have already been established and concrete proposals for cooperation prepared with the aim of introducing good practices for work in a multicultural society, some multicultural communities in the Republic of Slovenia — with the Jewish and Serbian communities in Slovenia (Association of the Serbian Diaspora of Slovenia). There are ongoing activities to establish cooperation with other communities and proposals for cooperation (with the Arab community in Slovenia — the Arab Club, the Islamic community, the Chinese community — Society of Slovenian-Chinese Friendship, etc.) have already been submitted. Within a wide range of activities that are carried out, individual police directorates and the local level authorities have identified various needs and specifics of individual communities that should be taken into account at work.

See also the last paragraph of the reply under point 2 of Part II of this report.

Protection against hate crime and hostility
(Reply to Recommendations Nos 56 and 57)

With a view to raising awareness of discrimination in Slovenia, the Police Academy is conducting a special training programme "*FA012 – Recognising stereotypes, overcoming prejudice and eliminating discrimination in a multicultural society*", which is aimed at obtaining the knowledge needed to recognise and understand various forms of discrimination. Police workers are trained to respond appropriately when dealing with persons who are "different", relegated to the margins of society, socially excluded due to their origin, values, lifestyle, orientation (sexual, religious, political, etc.) or personal traits. The participants in training learn about the social stereotypes and prejudice which can lead to discrimination; they learn about

and understand the role and importance of human rights declarations and conventions; they become aware of their own prejudices and the need to manage them in police work; they learn about different forms of discrimination and how to suppress them in Slovenia, the measures in force; they develop empathy for "different", marginalised and socially excluded individuals, and understand the importance of dialogue in forming partnerships with representatives of communities which could be at risk of discrimination. The Police Academy has been providing such training for police officers since 2009, and since 2013 for other civil servants who in the course of their work and competencies regularly meet with representatives of the Roma community or representatives of other multi-cultural communities. The training of police officers and civil servants is included in the annual work plan of the Police (for 2017, 2018 and 2019). The Police is also the responsible authority for measures defined in the National Programme of Measures for Roma for the Period 2017–2021.

a) The training of police officers was held under the title "Recognising stereotypes, overcoming prejudice and eliminating discrimination in a multicultural society".

In 2017, four training sessions for police officers were carried out in order to implement the measures, namely on:

- 23 January 2017 at the Murska Sobota Police Directorate — 23 participants,
- 22 March 2017 at the Ljubljana Police Directorate — 73 participants,
- 10 April 2017 at the Kranj Police Directorate — 24 participants,
- 14 November 2017 at the Koper Police Directorate — 27 participants.

In total, 147 police officers attended the training.

In 2018, seven training sessions for police officers were carried out, namely:

- on 23 February 2018 at the Nova Gorica Police Directorate — 7 participants,
- on 28 February 2018 at the Nova Gorica Police Directorate — 6 participants,
- on 6 March 2018 at the Nova Gorica Police Directorate — 14 participants,
- on 10 April 2018 at the Maribor Police Directorate — 42 participants,
 - at the Kranj Police Directorate — 22 participants,
- on 19 June 2018 at the Kranj Police Directorate — 29 participants,
- on 16 October 2018 at the Murska Sobota Police Directorate — 22 participants.

In total, 142 police officers attended the training.

b) Training aimed at identifying and preventing intolerance was held for civil servants working with the Roma (and other) community members.

In 2017, four training sessions were also carried out for other civil servants who, within their respective competence, meet with members of the Roma community (and other communities), namely on:

- 23 March 2017 for civil servants in the Pomurje region — 19 participants,
- 18 May 2017 for civil servants in the Ribnica municipality — 19 participants,
- 28 August 2017 for the civil servants at the Šentjernej primary school — 53 participants,
- 14 November 2017 for civil servants at the Nova Gorica Social Work Centre (SWC) — 13 participants.

In total, 117 civil servants took part in all four training sessions.

In accordance with the 2018 Police annual plan, three training sessions for civil servants were carried out on:

- 23 January 2018 for public servants at the ŠIŠKA SWC— 16 participants,
- 15 February 2018 for civil servants in the Grosuplje municipality — 11 participants (social work centre, administrative unit, primary health care centre, preschool institution, elementary school, local authority, inter-municipal inspectorate, etc.),

- 20 February 2018 for the civil servants at the General Financial Office (Ljubljana Financial Office, Novo mesto Financial Office and Murska Sobota Financial Office) — 41 participants.

In total, 68 participants took part in the training.

Within their scope of work, the members of the permanent working group participated in the programmes provided by the Police College and the Police Academy; they also delivered lectures on the subjects of Professional Ethics and Ethics and Human Rights, with certain key contents concerning the equality of treatment and specificity in a multicultural community and the prevention of discrimination, to the students at the Police College and candidates for national border controllers (in total six sections in 2017 and five sections in 2018).

- c) *Activities related to the issue of children escaping to harmful environments and the awareness-raising activities for judicial staff regarding the prevention of forced, agreed and early marriage*

In their work, the police in Slovenia have detected the issue of children fleeing to other family communities and harmful environments; it should be noted that already back in 2017 they identified, in cooperation with the Government Office for National Minorities, the need for strengthening the inter-institutional integration with a view to dealing more effectively with both the prevention and treatment of individual cases of early and forced marriage. The Government Office for National Minorities has taken over all management activities and is also responsible for the measure under the National Programme of Measures for Roma for the Period 2017-2021: "Preparation of a protocol of action in the proceedings for dealing with cases of cohabitation with minors — Dealing with the cases of minors escaping to harmful environments (early marriages) and forced marriages in the Roma community". To this end, the police have been actively cooperating (RSSC PA GPD, Juvenile Crime Section (JCS) of the Criminal Police Directorate (CPD) at the PGD); in 2018, their representatives participated in a series of meetings (12 January, 25 April, 31 August, 14 September, 27 September, 24 October, 7 December) held by the working groups concerning the implementation of the aforementioned measure under the National Programme of Measures for Roma for the Period 2017-2021 that is run by the Government Office for National Minorities. The aim was to discuss and become familiar with the situation in dealing with the cases of cohabitation with minors or the escape of minors to harmful environments, to identify the needs and develop starting points for drawing up the protocol/guidelines for action in these procedures, which is one of the objectives. In 2018, activities to raise awareness of judicial staff were also agreed upon at the meetings of the working group. The Judicial Training Centre included lectures for judges, prosecutors and state attorneys and judicial staff provided by the RSSC PA GPD at major training events — law schools, schools for public and state attorneys. Lectures were already delivered under the title "Challenges of Working with the Roma Community and its Specific Features" on:

- 19 September 2018 – School for Judges – Labour and Social Law, 2018
- 9 November 2018 – School for Judges – Minor Offences, 2018
- 27 November 2018 – Land Registration School, 2018
- 28 November 2018 – School for State Attorneys, 2018
- 17 December 2018 – School for State Prosecutors, 2018
- 7 March 2019 and 21 March 2019 — Civil Law School, 2019
- 13 March 2019 and 27 March 2019 — Enforcement Law School, 2019
- 8 April 2019 – Insolvency Law School, 2019,
- 8 May 2019 – Registry School, 2019.

The evaluations and feedback from participants and heads of individual law schools show that the lectures were very well received and, therefore, continued in 2019. The police also continue to cooperate actively with the Government Office for National Minorities in order to implement this measure.

For further information on the implementation of Recommendations Nos 51, 56 and 57, see point 2 of Part II of this report.

The Erased
(Reply to Recommendation No. 61)

See the reply or reference under the last paragraph of point 8 of Part II of this report.

Article 9 of the Framework Convention

Access to broadcast and print media
(Reply to Recommendation No. 67)

See the reply under point 9 of Part II of this report.

(Reply to Recommendation No. 68)

In the Republic of Slovenia, media intended for new or other minority communities or published by these communities may also submit their applications in the regular annual public call for the co-financing of media programmes at the competent Ministry for Culture on the basis of the Mass Media Act. Moreover, such programmes also provide positive discrimination as the assessment of the projects submitted also takes into account the following two legal criteria:

- assurance of compliance with the principles of cultural diversity, equal opportunities and tolerance,
- enabling the exercising of the right to inform the public and be informed by local and minority communities and whether it is being disseminated in minority languages;

It should be noted that, through the regular annual public call for the co-financing of media programmes in the period between 2017 and 2019, financial support was granted to:

- Applicant: Institute for the Information Activity of the Hungarian National Community (not co-financed in 2018 because it did not apply to the public call) for contributions in the weekly *Nepuisag* (in 2017, the "Manjšina o manjšini" (Minority on Minority) project — contributions aimed at obtaining new, younger readers, and media education for the youth; in 2019, the "Manjšina v zrcalu zgodovine" (A Minority in the History's Mirror) project — the contributions of retained authors). *Nepuisag* is a weekly magazine of the Hungarian national minority in Slovenia. The aim of the magazine is to provide information to members of the Hungarian national minority in their mother tongue. The project focuses on presenting, actively monitoring and commenting on various events related to the national community and on the events taking place in ethnically mixed and bilingual areas in Pomurje, which affect the lives of minority members and the enforcement of special rights of the autochthonous national community. The published content contributes to the preservation of the language and culture of the minority community, while enabling the quality integration of national community members into the social environment of the majority population. The magazine is the only printed medium in Hungarian that informs members of this community in their mother tongue and is dedicated to the preservation of their culture and language. It plays an important role in getting to know, integrating and accepting the minority by the majority population.

- Applicant: Roma Union of Slovenia, the "Most sožitja" (Bridge of Coexistence) project on Radio Romi. Radio Romi is a broadcaster of the Roma community and other communities; their programme Bridge of Coexistence focuses on stories that counter prejudice against the Roma, as one of the most visible vulnerable groups in Slovenia. The broadcasts are in the Slovene language and partly in Romani. The radio is aimed at the Roma and non-Roma communities in Prekmurje and beyond (Slovenians, Roma and Hungarians) with the main goal of encouraging communities to engage in tolerant and harmonious cooperation, to raise awareness and visibility of different cultures, origins, history and common past. Radio Romi strives to preserve Roma values and the Romani language, and also collects literature on the Roma and literature by Roma authors. It encourages members of the Roma community to be actively engaged in social activities within Roma organisations and other organisations.

Furthermore, in the 2017–2019 period the Ministry of Culture launched a regular annual public call for the co-financing of media programmes and awarded funding for the informative programmes, which deal with the issues facing national, minority and ethnic communities in the Republic of Slovenia as well as Slovenians living in the neighbouring countries. The media programmes of the co-financed projects (as part of the wider content) also allow for quality integration of national community members into the social environment, promote tolerance and cooperation, contribute to the awareness-raising and visibility of different cultures, as well as to the preservation of the language and culture of minority communities (see the table in Annex 1).

Article 10 of the Framework Convention

Use of minority languages in the public sphere (Reply to Recommendation No. 71)

In accordance with the public service legislation that is within the competence of the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, public services in Slovenia are provided by the Employment Service of Slovenia, the Pension and Disability Insurance Institute, the Pension and Disability Insurance Institute of Slovenia, social work centres and other social care providers (homes for the elderly, special social care and employment centre, training centres, work and care centres, etc.). All the above stated providers operating in ethnically mixed areas in Slovenia also provide services to users in minority languages, in accordance with the legislation in force.

In Slovenia, the systemic regulation or the provision of normative conditions for regulating the operation of public service employees in bilingual areas falls under the competence of the Ministry of Public Administration. The normative conditions for the equal public use of Italian and Hungarian in the areas of municipalities where the Italian or Hungarian national communities reside are guaranteed by the Public Employees Act, which contains a provision on the knowledge of the language of the national community as a special condition for holding a post (Article 17), and the Public Sector Salary System Act on the basis of which the public employees are entitled to a bilingualism allowance (Article 28). The Public Employees Act and the Public Sector Salary System Act follow the provisions of the Constitution of Slovenia (Articles 11, 61 and 62). The Ministry of Public Administration, within the scope of its competence, continuously carries out relevant activities to provide bilingual business operations in bilingual areas. To this end, it publishes informative materials on its website.

In ethnically mixed areas where the Italian and Hungarian national communities reside, bilingualism is implemented strictly in accordance with the Constitution, the legislation and municipal regulations governing bilingual operations in the ethnically mixed areas. The

appropriate supervision is carried out on an on-going basis. We consider that the use of both official languages in these areas has attained a level that makes violations of bilingualism the exception and that, even in such cases, the irregularities are negligible and mainly result from a lack of knowledge of the rules governing these issues. Citizens may obtain the translated prescribed forms either on the e-Government (e-Uprava) websites or in paper form at the administrative units. If an administrative procedure at the administrative unit is conducted in the language of a national community, acts referring to this procedure are issued both in the Slovenian language and in the language of the national community. Administrative units also provide translations of the non-prescribed forms for use by citizens to help them lodge applications.

In education, the minority languages are used in accordance with the Act Amending the Act Regulating Special Rights of Members of the Italian and Hungarian National Communities in the Field of Education (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No. 11/18).

For further information on the implementation of Recommendation No. 71, see point 6 of Part II of this report.

Article 12 of the Framework Convention

Equal access to education (Reply to Recommendations Nos 75 and 76)

The Republic of Slovenia explains that the Roma Community Act stipulates that in taking into consideration the special status of the Roma community in the Republic of Slovenia, members of the Roma community have, in addition to the rights and obligations pertaining to all citizens or citizens of the Republic of Slovenia, special rights provided by law.

The Strategy for the Education of the Roma in the Republic of Slovenia (2011 — Amendment to the 2004 Strategy) pays particular attention to the areas that were not considered in more detail in the 2004 Strategy, i.e. early childhood education and secondary education, but also touches upon university, post-graduate and adult education.

The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport provides funds from the state budget to pay higher costs for classes with Roma children in kindergartens. It provides additional funding for individual or group work with Roma children within the education process as well as financial support for research and development studies concerning the issues of successful integration of Roma children and the standardisation of the Roma language for teaching purposes. In accordance with the criteria for the formation of classes, primary schools have set a lower norm for classes with at least three Roma pupils enrolled.

In order to strengthen activities to improve Roma integration in all levels of education, the competent ministry indirectly finances a number of projects related to raising social and cultural capital (empowerment) in the Roma communities. The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport finances the project "Together for Knowledge — the development of support mechanisms for knowledge acquisition by Roma community members", which, in accordance with the objectives set, focuses on educational aspects. To this end, educational activities are organised in multi-purpose centres, such as additional learning support for Roma pupils, as well as other various leisure activities for school pupils, pre-school children and their parents. Through these activities, multi-purpose centres, and therefore also Roma settlements, are connected with primary schools, kindergartens and other local institutions in the local environment.

Providers of activities in multi-purpose centres encourage children and young people to successfully engage in the educational process, set professional objectives, raising motivation and an interest in completing primary school or continuing education. Multi-purpose centres in Roma settlements above all enable children to enjoy quality leisure time. Children visiting centres have the opportunity to experience success, relaxation, satisfaction, friendship and recognition, and to gain experience of group dynamics and interaction, working in small groups, public performance and, ultimately, a sense of responsibility and independence. The inclusion and active participation of Roma children in multi-purpose centres contribute to raising their social and cultural capital.

The Ministry's development projects focused on attaining higher standards of knowledge of Roma pupils in primary schools and their widest possible integration in the secondary education and on raising the education levels of Roma assistants.

The Ministry also supported the project "Providing access to quality pre-school programmes for Roma children and their parents" (PPROS), run by the Pedagogical Institute, the Step by Step Research and Development Centre of Pedagogical Initiatives.

The project was implemented from January 2014 to December 2016 and was funded by the Open Society Foundations London. Its primary objective was to develop and implement various forms of educational work with a view to providing access to quality pre-school programmes for Roma children and their parents.

In cooperation with five kindergartens, the project developed three models for access to quality pre-schools programmes:

- Model 1: focused on expanding the range of high quality pre-school programmes for Roma children who are not enrolled in kindergartens, and their parents;
- Model 2: aimed at raising the quality of direct educational work in classes of the first (0-3) and the second (3-6) age group, in which Roma children are enrolled;
- Model 3: aimed at the simultaneous functioning of the kindergarten towards expanding services for Roma children who are not enrolled in kindergartens, and their parents, and at raising the quality of direct educational work in classes in which Roma children are enrolled.

With regard to additional activities, mention should be made of the CRP 2017 project: Roma integration in the secondary and tertiary education levels and adult education: drivers and barriers that Roma community members face in the education system in Slovenia after completing their primary school.

The main objectives of the proposed project are:

- to produce a quantitative overview of the inclusion and performance status of the Roma in secondary and university education and adult education;
- to identify and analyse the factors affecting the level of inclusion and performance of the Roma in the education system in general, with a focus on secondary and university education and adult education;
- to identify the main issues and obstacles faced by the Roma in the process of secondary and university education and adult education and to explore the possibility to mitigate or eliminate them;
- to gather information on the attitudes of secondary and post-secondary educational establishments and institutions providing education to adults towards the members of the Roma community who are enrolled in their education programmes, as well as information on the perception of such relationship by the Roma;
- to gather information on the experiences, motives, perceptions, preferences and expectations of Roma pupils, students and adults in the educational process.

The project also pays particular attention to:

- interregional differences and specificities within Slovenia;

- the question of what the broad and long-term effects of raising the education level of the Roma community would be;
- the potential emergence of role models and assistance provided by Roma individuals holding a secondary or university degree in relation to other school-going Roma.

Pre-school sector (description of the measures):

- a reduced kindergarten payment for children from socially disadvantaged families (the lowest income brackets);
- a full exemption from the kindergarten payment for children from families with the lowest economic status (most Roma families);
- co-financing of an additional pre-school teacher in Roma classes (payment of the difference between the pre-school teacher and pre-school teacher assistant);
- pursuant to the law, children from socially less-privileged backgrounds have priority in admission to kindergartens (Article 20 of the Kindergartens Act);
- more favourable norms in classes (reduced number of children);
- the additional payment of higher costs of materials and services;
- the additional payment of the training costs for educational staff in this field;
- the payment of higher costs for the purchase of educational toys for classes with Roma children.

Primary school (description of the measures):

- a reduced number of teaching hours for a second-teaching professional in first grade classes with at least three Roma pupils enrolled;
- an additionally classified post for a member of the educational staff to work with Roma pupils in accordance with the following criteria:

Number of Roma pupils		Share of the workplace
from	to	
4	8	0.10
9	13	0.25
14	19	0.50
20	26	0.75
27	34	1.00
35	44	1.50
45		2.00

- the school may allocate the share of the job position between the post of the teacher for additional professional assistance to Roma pupils and the post of a counsellor;
- a lower norm for setting up classes with at least three Roma pupils (the regular norm is 28 pupils, the norm for setting a class with Roma pupils is 21 pupils);

- a lower norm for setting up a combined class from two classes, in which at least three Roma pupils are enrolled (21 pupils is a regular norm, 16 pupils is the norm for the class with Roma pupils enrolled);
- a lower norm for setting up a combined class from three classes, in which at least three Roma pupils are enrolled (14 pupils is a regular norm, 10 pupils is the norm for the class with Roma pupils enrolled);
- additional funds for material costs for the implementation of primary school programmes involving Roma pupils;
- additional payment of the training costs for educational staff in this field.

Field findings indicate that since 2011 significant positive developments have been made in these areas:

- although inclusion in regular pre-school education programmes has not improved significantly, it has been noted that children are nevertheless more often involved in the pre-school programmes implemented through multi-purpose centres and extracurricular activities. There is also a higher awareness of some parents about the importance of early involvement of children in these programmes in order to facilitate their integration into the school system;
- in practice there are no more separate Roma classes. However, we have noticed in the course of our work that some teachers continue to send Roma children out of the classroom to work individually with members of educational staff who are employed to provide learning assistance to this target group. In some cases, this is a temporary solution for the child to be able to acquire some of the missing skills, while in some cases it is still a practice at the systemic level. In this respect, the prejudice on the part of teaching staff, which is perhaps only slightly more hidden, still remains an issue, but there is still a lack of genuine consciousness and awareness among this group.

In the framework of the Together for Knowledge project, the following objectives are pursued through the following mechanisms (in terms of positive discrimination both at pre-school and school levels):

- Roma assistants: in their work, Roma assistants generally focus on Roma pupils and in this context provide the necessary assistance in their inclusion in the school system and in overcoming language barriers.
- Pre-school education: Kerin Grm Special Preparatory Kindergarten, special pre-school programmes run by multi-purpose centres in Roma settlements, the inclusion of Roma assistants in kindergartens, all with the aim of increasing the enrolment of children in regular kindergarten classes.
- Specialised multi-purpose centres in Roma settlements to provide quality leisure time and offer various forms of assistance in their education (with particular emphasis on acquiring basic skills, promoting their motivation and desire to learn).
- Funding tuition fees for pre-school education for Roma assistants at the university level — currently five Roma assistants successfully continue their studies in Year 2, while this academic year two Roma assistants have enrolled Year 1 of their study programme. There are still a few candidates for university studies who have not yet been successful in applying for admission to these programmes. In addition, all employed Roma assistants are encouraged to acquire secondary education, undergo retraining for pre-school education and to sit the certification examination in education and training.

Textbooks, teacher training and intercultural education
(Reply to Recommendation No. 79)

The Republic of Slovenia explains that the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport makes further efforts to raise awareness of the importance of exercising the rights of minorities in general education as an integral part of human rights protection. Curricula are developed in consultation with minority representatives, adequately reflecting the diversity of Slovenian society, including the culture, history and identity of minorities. Teachers and school staff are trained to promote respect for diversity in the classroom. A wide range of workshops and other professional training take place on this subject.

Article 14 of the Framework Convention

Teaching and learning in and about minority languages (Reply to Recommendations Nos 83 and 84)

The Republic of Slovenia explains that the development work of the National Education Institute is ongoing as regards preparations for the introduction of supplementary teaching of the mother tongue for members of the Roma community.

The development work of the Slovenian Institute for Adult Education: the promotion of family reading for members of the Roma community.

The Romani language is included in the European Social Fund's project (Languages Count).

The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport continues to co-finance the supplementary teaching of mother tongues and cultures for children of other nationalities. Around 350-380 pupils attend these lessons each year. Teaching is organised in Macedonian, German, Russian, Hungarian, French, Chinese, Albanian and Croatian, and sometimes also in other languages. The range of languages and the number of children involved depend on the current organisation of the community of members of other nationalities in Slovenia. The Ministry allocates approximately EUR 20,000 per year for this activity. The list of languages, the number of children and the amount of funds allocated are publicly available on the website of the Ministry ([Language Education](#)).

As regards the provision of special rights to the autochthonous Italian and Hungarian national communities, the Ministry is in favour of positive discrimination and will, as part of the action plan in this area, continue to implement two special measures (funds provided by the European Social Fund) aimed at increasing the quality of national education for the Hungarian national community in Prekmurje and the Italian national community living in the coastal area. There is a need for the additional training of teaching staff in the context of specific needs in bilingual educational/minority educational institutions.

Article 15 of the Framework Convention

Representation in elected bodies (Reply to Recommendations Nos 88 and 89)

In 2018, the Republic of Slovenia held regular local elections in which members of municipal councils, mayors and members of the councils of the narrower parts of the municipalities were elected in all municipalities. The municipalities populated by members of the Italian and Hungarian national communities and the Roma community also elected representatives of these communities to municipal councils. During the run-up to the elections held in November

2018, the Ministry of Public Administration, in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior and the National Electoral Commission, convened a meeting with the municipalities in which representatives of the nationalities and of the Roma are elected. As part of the preparations of national authorities for regular local elections, the Ministry of the Interior drew attention to a very diverse, often discriminatory practice with regard to the organisation of polling stations, which also constitutes a significant obstacle to the drawing up of electoral registers. The key message from the meeting is that, with a view to preventing discrimination, it is not permissible to organise "special polling stations" in which only the representatives of those groups are elected. A representative of the National Electoral Commission explicitly pointed out that the polling stations are organised according to the principle of one voter – one polling station – one notification to the voter. This means that all polling stations are regular polling stations where all the municipal authorities and representatives of the national communities or the Roma are elected. This principle also applies to the single special polling station in which early voting is conducted at the premises of the District Electoral Commission, in accordance with Article 78 of the Local Elections Act. In accordance with this principle, the Ministry of the Interior also drew up electoral registers organised by individual polling stations for the purpose of holding elections on the day of calling local elections. The Ministry of Public Administration regularly published explanations about the conduct of elections on its website and held a series of expert meetings, which were also attended by representatives of the national minorities and the Roma. Telephone or written counselling was available throughout the year.

Effective participation in the decision-making process
(Reply to Recommendations Nos 93 and 94)

The Slovenian Ministry of Culture strives for a constructive dialogue with representatives of new national communities. In February 2011, the National Assembly approved by a two-thirds majority the Declaration of the Republic of Slovenia on the Status of the National Communities of Members of Nations of the Former SFRY in the Republic of Slovenia (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No. 7/11) which expresses the expectations that the Government of the Republic of Slovenia will, on the basis of the positions expressed in the Declaration and within the framework of its powers, ensure a continuous concern for creating opportunities for the members of the communities of the Albanians, Bosniaks, Montenegrins, Croats, Macedonians and Serbs to preserve and develop their identity.

On the basis of the aforementioned Declaration, the Governments to date on 19 May 2011, 22 August 2013, 26 February 2015 and 11 July 2019 established a special consultative body, i.e. the Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for issues pertaining to members of the national communities of the nations of the former SFRY in the Republic of Slovenia (hereinafter: the Council).

In accordance with the instrument establishing the Council, the tasks of the Council are:

1. to consider the issues, requests and proposals submitted to the Council by interest organisation entities of members of the national communities of the nations of the former SFRY in Slovenia;
2. to consider and adopt positions regarding the proposals of decisions of the Government and the ministries relating to the issues of the nations concerned;
3. to monitor and assess the respect for and the exercise of the rights of members of the aforementioned national communities in accordance with the international obligations binding on Slovenia, the provisions of the independence documents and the Constitution of Slovenia;
4. to monitor the adoption and implementation of measures to preserve, develop and promote the ethnic and national identity of members of the aforementioned national communities, in particular as regards:

- the expression, preservation and development of identity factors, i.e. religion, culture and language,
- the access to the media and the creation of own production in the languages of the aforementioned national communities,
- the opportunity for proper organisation and operation,
- the opportunity for unhindered contacts with the mother nation,
- the launching of initiatives and proposals for further measures and actions to promote, develop and preserve the ethnic and national identity of members of the aforementioned national communities,
- the identification of ways to improve the participation of members of the aforementioned national communities in decision-making on matters of their concern,
- the launching of initiatives concerning education, awareness-raising and research;

5. to draw up annual reports to inform the Government and the National Assembly of its work.

Five representatives of national authorities (Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education, Science and Sports, Government Office for National Minorities, Ministry of the Interior and Ministry of Foreign Affairs), one representative of the Public Fund of the Republic of Slovenia for Cultural Activities and six representatives of national communities of the former SFRY in the Republic of Slovenia, are appointed to the Council. In the Council, representatives of national communities work together on an equal footing, which facilitates a concerted action to regulate the above mentioned issues.

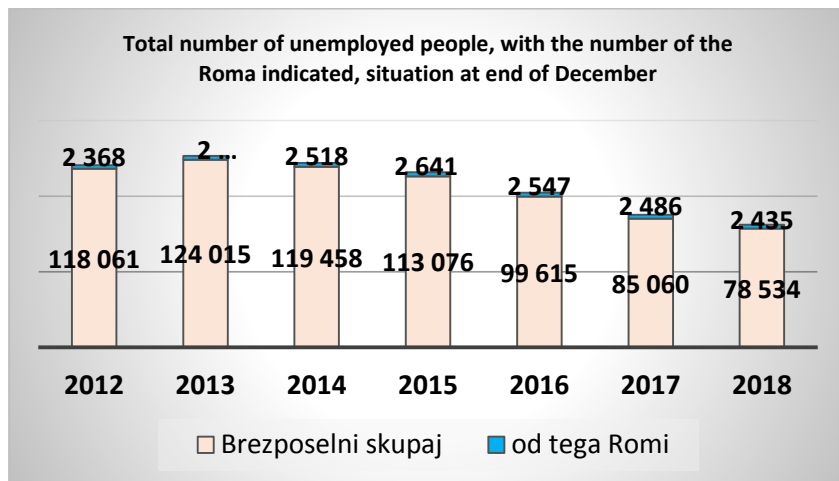
In the past, it became clear that the active functioning of the Council contributed to a better and faster dialogue between the Government and the national communities with a view to ensuring the preservation, development and promotion of the identity of members of the nations of the former SFRY in all its forms. Consequently, the responsible Ministry for Culture endeavours to ensure that the Council established on 11 July 2019 starts functioning as soon as possible. The first meeting of the newly established Council was convened on 29 August 2019.

Effective participation in socio-economic life
(Reply to Recommendation No. 97)

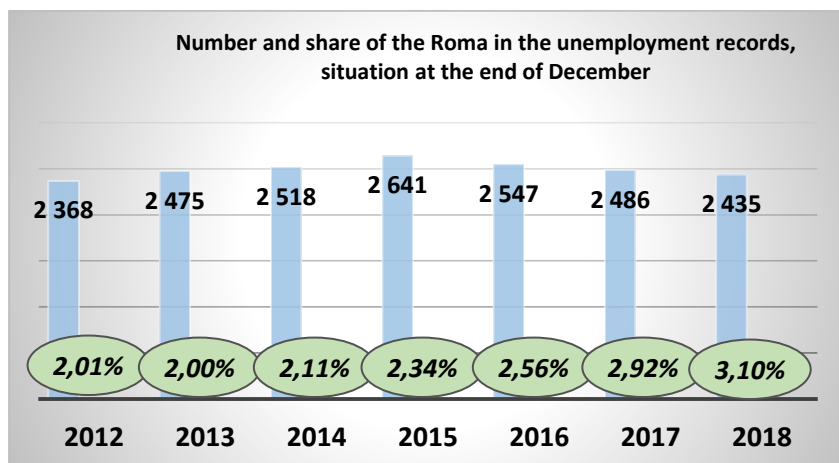
The Republic of Slovenia explains that the issue of including the Roma population in the labour market is multi-faceted and requires prior action to be taken in various inter-sectoral areas (housing, education, social assistance, the protection of children, women and young people, measures and consideration at the local level, etc.) Major obstacles to the integration of the unemployed Roma into the labour market are 1) a low level of education and a lack of work experience and 2) the ability and willingness of members of the Roma community to work more actively to identify their own skills, competences and interests in decision-making in the areas of education, training and career choices.

In terms of the regulations governing the employment and social protection, which are under the responsibility of the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (hereinafter: MLFSA), the Roma have the same rights and duties as other citizens of the Republic of Slovenia. In the register of unemployed persons, the Employment Service of the Republic of Slovenia (hereinafter: Employment Service) does not keep separate records of unemployed Roma community members, because there is no legal basis for collecting data on ethnic origin. Only those Roma who identify themselves as Roma in the process of drawing up employment plans or in any other procedure dealing with them are recorded in the unemployment records.

Regardless of labour market trends (economic crisis/expansion), the absolute number of unemployed Roma registered in the unemployment records does not change significantly. However, their share in the unemployed population is increasing as a result of the reduction in the number of all persons registered in the record of the unemployed. The slight increase is mainly due to the economic crisis. The trend of the number of unemployed Roma is evident from the graphs below.



Source: Employment Service of the Republic of Slovenia



Source: Employment Service of the Republic of Slovenia

At the end of 2018, as many as 1,387 Roma with incomplete school education were registered in the unemployment records or 57% of all the Roma registered in the unemployment records, while 824 Roma or 34% of all had completed primary education. The following is a breakdown of the structure of the unemployed Roma by level of education and sex at the end of 2018.

	Men	Women	Total
Incomplete primary school	743	644	1,387
Primary school	407	417	824
Lower vocational education	69	38	107
Secondary vocational education	47	60	107
Secondary vocational education, secondary general education	10	17	27

Higher education - 1st cycle	1		1
Total	1,277	1,176	2,453

Source: Employment Service of the Republic of Slovenia

In 2018, with a view to improving the educational level of the unemployed and gaining work experience, 333 Roma (176 men and 157 women) were included in the active employment policy measure "training and education (non-formal and formal education, on-the-job training, work-based test, etc.)". The aim of non-formal education is to increase employment opportunities by obtaining new knowledge and competencies for entering the labour market and successful career development. The aim of formal education is to enhance employment opportunities by obtaining a higher level of education.

The table below shows the total number of the Roma who were included in active employment policy programmes, participated in the workshops on labour market services and used the services provided by career centres in which the institution offers employment and lifelong guidance activities. It is broken down by years and the level of funding allocated by the MLFSA to activate the Roma in the 2015–2018 period.

Overview of the number of inclusions and the use of funds in the 2015-2018 period

Year	Number of Roma included	Level of funding (in EUR)	Note
2015	2,433	1,162,290.00	the number of Roma included in the active employment policy programmes, workshops on labour market services and career development centres in 2015
2016	2,546	1,137,886.00	the number of Roma included in the active employment policy programmes, workshops on labour market services and career development centres in 2016
2017	3,264	1,251,698.00	the number of Roma included in the active employment policy programmes, workshops on labour market services and career centres in 2017
2018	3,662	1,614,035.00	the number of Roma included in the active employment policy programmes, workshops on labour market services and career centres in 2018

Source: Employment Service of the Republic of Slovenia.

With a view to increasing their employment opportunities, unemployed persons and other job seekers have the right and duty to participate in active employment policy measures.

The reactivation of the Roma has a positive impact on their chances of re-entering the labour market. The number of the Roma deregistered from the unemployment records because of employment is shown in the table below.

	2015	2016	2017	2018

No. of exits in employment on an annual basis (January-December)	240	321	290	271
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Source: *Employment Service of the Republic of Slovenia.*

We refer to the public works programmes as an example of good practice. With a view to the employment and social activation of long-term unemployed Roma, the implementation of public works is to the greatest extent possible:

- adapted to the needs of the unemployed Roma;
- adapted to the Roma who are public service users.

Within the scope of public works, special ("tailor made") programmes are carried out, which are intended for the regulation of Roma settlements, as well as programmes designed to assist the Roma in their socialisation. Programmes include the Roma and others.

In particular, public works contractors implementing public works programmes for the Roma (Assistance to the Roma in their Socialisation and Assistance in the Regulation of Roma Settlements) are primarily: primary schools and kindergartens, public universities, social work centres, municipalities (with public utility facilities) and societies (such as the Romani Society for Social Development and Justice, societies for the promotion, preservation and development of culture, Association for the Development of the Roma Community, etc.).

The implementation of the public works programme entitled "Assistance to the Roma in their Socialisation" in the 2016–2018 period:

- 2016: 46 public works programmes in which 68 Roma were included, the level of funding: EUR 697,288;
- 2017: 40 public works programmes in which 63 Roma were included, the level of funding: EUR 655,162;
- 2018: 45 public works programmes in which 41 Roma were included, the level of funding: EUR 629,152.

The implementation of the public works programme entitled "Assistance in the Regulation of Roma Settlements" (*assistance in the regulation and maintenance of settlements, education regarding the proper way of collecting waste and rainwater, etc.*) in the 2016–2018 period:

- 2016: 5 public works programmes in which 15 Roma were included, the level of funding: EUR 138,471;
- 2017: 4 public works programmes in which 12 Roma were included, the level of funding: EUR 101,577;
- 2018: 6 public works programmes in which 12 Roma were included, the level of funding: EUR 113,000.

The Roma also participate in other public works programmes among which we draw attention to the programme "3.2 The regulation and maintenance of public surfaces and municipal roads" in which 35 Roma were involved in 2018, and the programme "2.2 Support for learning and other support for children, primary and secondary school pupils and other participants in education", in which 24 Roma were involved.

Articles 17 and 18 of the Framework Convention

Regional co-operation
(Reply to Recommendation No. 99)

The Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Government Office for National Minorities support the development of intensive cross-border cooperation between members of national minorities. By means of the Decree on the co-financing of municipalities in the ethnically mixed area for 2017 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No. 14/17, hereinafter: the Decree) the Government determined the purposes of the spending and the level of funding allocated to municipalities with ethnically mixed settlements to support bilingualism and the exercise of the constitutional rights of the Italian or Hungarian national community for 2017. The public funds under the Decree were intended for the bilingual operations of municipal administrations and the authorities of the Municipality of Koper and the municipalities of Izola, Piran, Ankaran, Lendava, Moravske Toplice, Dobrovnik, Šalovci and Hodoš, as well as for the operations of the municipal self-governing communities in the aforementioned municipalities. The eligible costs co-financed by the Government were also the costs of the municipal self-governing national communities in these municipalities incurred by contacts with the nation of origin. In accordance with the provisions of Article 9 of the Decree, the Government Office for National Minorities concluded annual contracts for 2017 for the co-financing of the bilingual operations of the municipal administrations and municipal authorities and for the operations of the municipal self-governing national community. In accordance with Article 10 of the Decree, individual municipalities then concluded contracts with the municipal self-governing national communities on the co-financing of their operations, determining, on the basis of a mutual agreement, the amount of funding earmarked for their operations.

In 2018, the Government issued the Decree determining detailed spending purposes and criteria for calculating the amount of funds allocated to municipalities or municipal self-governing national communities (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No. 33/18; hereinafter: the 2018 Decree). The 2018 Decree has been in force since 1 January 2018, for 2018 and for the following years. On the basis of the 2018 Decree, the Government issues a decision on the co-financing of bilingualism and the exercise of the constitutional rights of the autochthonous Italian and Hungarian national communities, which provides the basis for payment to municipalities Koper (urban municipality), Izola, Piran, Ankaran, Lendava, Moravske Toplice, Dobrovnik, Šalovci and Hodoš, and directly to the municipal self-governing communities if they opt for such a decision. The 2019 Decision was issued by the Government on 11 April 2019. Pursuant to the provisions of the 2018 Decision, the municipal self-governing national communities are also eligible for the programme costs of ensuring contacts with the nation of origin (the presentation of various groups and associations in Italy and Hungary, Italian and Hungarian groups and associations in Slovenia, etc.).

On the basis of a review of the annual reports of the municipalities with ethnically mixed settlements and self-governing national communities, the Republic of Slovenia notes that municipalities themselves also allocate funds and seek to increase cross-border cooperation with representatives of the nations of origin.

On a statutory basis, the Government Office for National Minorities co-finances the operation of the umbrella organisations of the Italian and Hungarian national communities and of the Roma community. The Office concludes annual contracts with all three umbrella organisations on the basis of the submitted work programmes. Other purposes include the rational costs of contacts with the nation of origin or, in the case of the Roma community, the costs of international contacts.

With regard to their cross-border cooperation, the municipalities and self-governing national communities, where members of the Hungarian national community reside, in their annual reports primarily describe contacts and participation in working meetings with representatives of the local authorities of Hungarian towns (mayors, deputy mayors, etc.), participation in official meetings with high representatives of Hungary (the Ambassador and the speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly), participation in meetings with representatives of Hungarian associations and societies, Hungarian schools and cultural institutions, business meetings (conferences, forums, etc.) in Hungary, attendance at cultural and art events (literary presentations, important anniversaries, commemorations, Statehood Day ceremony, local

holidays and village feasts), and fairs in Hungary, as well as participation in other social events promoting mutual contacts and friendship.

Case No. 1: Outline of contacts with members of the Hungarian national community living in other countries (source: the 2018 Financial and Substantive Report of the Hungarian Self-governing National Community of Pomurje)

In 2018, they continued their activities from the previous period; the guidelines of the Hungarian Self-governing National Community (hereinafter: the HSGNC) have remained unchanged. Considerable attention was continued to be paid to the meetings with high government officials in Slovenia and Hungary with a view to contributing to a better visibility of the Hungarian national community. The President of the Council of the HSGNC held a meeting with the Deputy Prime Ministers of the two countries; he also met with the two Speakers of the National Assembly, Dr Milan Brglez and Dr László Kövér, Minister for Slovenians Abroad Gorazd Žmavc, the newly-appointed Ambassador of Slovenia to Hungary H.E. Mr Dr Robert Kokalj, the Ambassador of Hungary to Slovenia H. E. Ms Edit Szilágyiné Bátorfi, The Federal Union of European Nationalities – FUEN, etc. In 2018, the HSGNC representatives met with representatives of the Ombudsman, representatives of the Porabje Slovenians, representatives of the Italian national community in Slovenia and various organisations and customers of the Hungarian minority in the Carpathian Basin. The aim of these meetings is to exchange experiences in all areas of activity and to explore new opportunities for the development of the national community and the implementation of joint projects. The President of the HSGNC Council attended a conference on languages in Brussels and, in Lendava, he met with Mr Fernand de Varennes, the UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues.

In 2018, the HSGNC also organised two main events, i.e. the commemoration event on 15 March marking Hungary's 1848-49 revolution and freedom fight and the commemoration event on 20 August celebrating Hungarian National Day. The guests of spring events were Deputy State Secretary Csaba Latorcai and Ms Edit Szilágyiné Bátorfi, the Ambassador of Hungary to Slovenia. The National Day ceremony event was also attended by representatives of the two national authorities. In addition to these two events, various commemorations were held, of which a ceremony in remembrance of the martyrs of Arad (6 October) and a ceremony in remembrance of the revolution of 1956 (23 October) deserve special mention.

The HSGNC continued its cooperation with representatives of the renowned Ferenc Puskás Football Academy in Hungary. As a result, representatives of the national community underwent training at their Academy. In the summer months, a football camp was organised. They were also engaged in the presentation of the Hungarian national minority and our culture in various locations (Budapest, Zalaegerszeg, etc.). In an effort to encourage the implementation of common European projects, the HSGNC met with border counties in Hungary, with representatives of local communities in Slovenia and with the management of the Murska Sobota Development Centre.

The President of the Council of the HSGNC, the Ambassador of Hungary to Slovenia and representatives of the Consulate-General in Lendava on several occasions discussed various issues pertaining to the protection and exercise of the special rights of the Pomurje Hungarian national community. The HSGNC had several working meetings with business sector representatives from Hungary. The representatives discussed opportunities for cooperation in the economic and agricultural fields. During that year, the President actively participated in different sessions and meetings in Slovenia and Hungary. Considerable attention was focused on the presentation of projects of the Hungarian national community to representatives from different ministries and national authorities. The activities resulted in funds received from the Hungarian Government for various purposes, etc.

Efforts to ensure effective cross-border cooperation are also seen from the annual reports of the municipalities and self-governing communities, where members of the Italian national community live. They maintain close contacts with members of the Italian national community in the Republic of Croatia and members of the nation of origin in the Republic of Italy. In

addition to strengthening contacts in official, business and other meetings, attention should be drawn to the very intensive joint cooperation of members in organising music concerts and other artistic events, such as the presentation of contacts with the nation of origin made by the Italian self-governing national community of Piran (source: Annual Report 2018).

The cost of contacts with the nation of origin also cover the costs of the presentations of various groups in Italy and Slovenia, Italian groups and associations in Slovenia, expert meetings, trainings, round tables and various events.

In 2018, a study trip to Vicenza was organised to visit the exhibition "Van Gogh: Between the Wheat and the Sky", as well as the presentation of the book/biography by Flavia Segnan, published by Luglio Editore.

As part of the project "Learning about the Cultural Heritage of Piran: The Walls of Piran – Our Mysterious Guardian", meetings were held on 21 March and 18 April in cooperation with the Institute of Archeology and Heritage and the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Primorska (UP FHŠ).

In the framework of traditional events dedicated to Giuseppe Tartini, the Italian self-governing national community organised an exhibition of the Vinyl records of the Tartini's Devil's Trills concerts from the Emil Gašperšič collection. The events concluded with a music programme and playing recordings from disassembled records on a classic record player and with the concert performed by ensemble Il Terzo Suono on Saturday, 7 April 2018.

In cooperation with the Coastal Italian Self-Governing Community, a meeting was organised with the Italian singer Simone Cristicchi who met with the pupils from primary and secondary schools with Italian as the language of instruction in the morning and with the audience in the evening.

On 21 April 2018, the presentation was organised of the works of architect Pietro Nobile that were designed between Piran and Savudrija; the event commemorated the 200th anniversary of the restoration of the Church of St. Peter in Piran and the erection of the Savudrija Lighthouse.

On 20 May 2018, cultural and artistic groups joined the event at the end of the Amateur Culture Week, which was organised by the Public Fund for Cultural Activities on Tartini Square in Piran.

On 2 June 2018, a pottery group participated in a ceramics workshop using a technique called Raku, which was held at the foot of the hill Sabotin. On 6 October, the group visited the Florence's Ceramic Fair.

On 10 June 2018, a mixed choir gave a performance in Parma at the Adolfo Tanzi Festival of Choirs.

On 18 June 2018, the Giuseppe Tartini choir attended an evening cave event: the Choir Competition held at the Holy Cave near Socerb as part of the events of the Coastal Summer Festival.

On 3 July 2018, a concert of early music was organised featuring music performed by Cappello Justinopolitan and the Giuseppe Tartini Mixed Choir.

A group of mandolin players performed at the Dolenjske Toplice Spa, Trieste and Sigiletto, at the invitation of local organisers.

Piran marked the Year of Carpaccio by focusing on the 500th anniversary of

Vittore Carpaccio's altar painting through fine arts workshops at the beginning of the school year, which were led by Miriam Elettra Vacarri and Scilla Gortan.

On 1 September 2018, the Great War cultural project was presented: the awareness of knowledge, in cooperation with the Pro Loco Centre from San Pietro di Felletto (Treviso).

On 6 September 2018, an exhibition was launched in Tartini House by members of art groups of the Italian community. At the invitation of Piran Coastal Galleries, they participated in EX-tempore Piran for a number of years, presenting fine arts works (painting and ceramics) of the groups. In 2018, their guests were artists from Trieste with a photo exhibition titled Istrian Wonders.

On 22 September 2018, the project entitled The Walls of Piran: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow was presented to the public. The walls of Piran have co-existed with the city for centuries. Today, the walls represent one of the most important cityscapes of Piran, offering an exceptional panoramic view. Some parts of the wall are real architectural monuments. The project was presented as part of the events and activities scheduled to take place during the European Heritage Days.

On 13 October 2018, the second FONS – The October Holiday of Flavours was organised together with the Italian National Community Youth Association at the former salt warehouse in Portorož. At the event, several producers presented local specialities, allowing visitors to taste a variety of local products. Visitors were presented a rich entertainment programme featuring groups from Slovenia, Croatia and Italy.

On 4 October 2018, the book written by Almerigo Apollonio: *Nel tardo ottocento asburgico: il lungo Ministero del Conte Taaffe e i suoi riflessi sul Litorale* was presented. The book is the result of the cooperation between the I.R.C.I. Institute and the "Italo Svevo" international publishing house from Trieste. On this occasion, the speeches were delivered by President of the Regional Institute the Istrian, Dalmatian and Fiuman Culture Franco Degrassi and President of the Association for the Historical and Geographical Studies Piran Kristjan Knez, and Vice-President of the Italian Community of "Giuseppe Tartini" Piran, thus marking 90 golden years of Almerigo Apollonio. The event was organised in cooperation with the Piran Association for Historical and Geographical Studies.

In the period between August and December 2018, a project for the evaluation and promotion of cultural heritage was prepared and presented through Christian Poletti's "Tartini Tours".

In 2018, the Italian self-governing national community of Piran cooperated in the preparation of the International Congress to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of the Istrian scholar Tomaso Luciani (1818–1894). A study day was organised by the Piran Association for Historical and the Geographical Studies, in cooperation with the "Giuseppina Martinuzzi" Italian community from Labinjan, the "Carlo Combi" Italian centre from Koper and with the support of The Rovinj History Research Centre.

PART IV

Specific questions

As part of the further dialogue with the Advisory Committee, Contracting Parties may be invited to provide answers to specific questions relating to specific national circumstances.

No additional comments are made in relation to specific national circumstances.

Annex 1

In the 2017–2019 period, the Ministry of Culture launched a regular annual public call for the co-financing of media programmes and awarded the following funding for the information programmes relating, among others, to national and ethnic communities in the Republic of Slovenia as well as Slovenes living in the neighbouring countries:

2017

Applicant	Project title	Community included (Roma, Hungarian, Italian, Serbian, Croatian, Slovenians in the neighbouring countries, etc.)	Co-financed (in EUR)
INSTITUTE FOR THE INFORMATION ACTIVITY OF THE HUNGARIAN NATIONAL COMMUNITY	<i>Manjšina o manjšini</i> (Minority on Minority) — contributions aimed at obtaining new, younger readers, and media	Nepujsag is a weekly magazine of the Hungarian national minority in Slovenia. The aim of the magazine is to provide information to members of the Hungarian national minority in their mother tongue.	2,929.20

	education for the youth		
THE ROMA UNION OF SLOVENIA	<i>Most sožitja</i> (Bridge of Coexistence)	Radio Romi is a broadcaster of the Roma and other communities; their programme <i>Bridge of Coexistence</i> focuses on stories that counter prejudice against the Roma, as one of the most visible vulnerable groups in Slovenia. The broadcasts are in the Slovenian language and partly in Romani.	11,631.89
TV CELJE, d.o.b.	<i>Dogodki dneva</i> (Events of the Day) – news programme	The broadcasts allow representatives of the Roma community and other ethnic communities in Slovenia to express their views.	42,582.28
RADIO TRIGLAV JESENICE, d. o. o.	Zgornja Gorenjska na Radiu Triglav (Upper Gorenjska region on Radio Triglav)	The broadcasts also include information on the work of immigrant organisations and cultural societies of immigrants and the lives of Roma and Sinti.	46,636.29
TELEVIZIJA NOVO MESTO, D. O. O.	News	The broadcast addresses the issues of the Roma community that has a strong presence in this area.	70,000.00
UNIVOX, d. o. o.	<i>Zahodnodolenjski odmevi</i> (Topical news from West Dolenjska)	The programme also addresses the issues of the Roma community around Kočevje and Ribnica. The regular monthly broadcast <i>Romani Hours</i> made as a part of the project gives an opportunity to spread information on the life and culture of the Roma and the problems they face.	45,060.39
RADIO MURSKI VAL, d. o. o.	<i>Aktualno</i> (In Focus) — central news programmes on the Murski Val Radio	The broadcast deliberately focuses on nationality issues (Hungarian and Croatian communities) and provides information to members of national minorities and majority nation about specific issues. It also provides information to the Roma and contributes to better cooperation between the Roma and other members of the population.	79,448.00

PRO MUNDUS, d. o. o.	<i>Studio+</i>	Studio+ is a 30-minute studio talk show that also covers the situation of Hungarians and Croats living in Pomurje; the programme acquaints viewers with Romani culture and political life, their views on current events, and also presents successful individuals with Roma roots.	4,550.00
HI-FI VIDEOSTUDIO, d. o. o.	<i>Dogodki (Events)</i>	Within the project, every last Friday of the month is devoted exclusively to the lives of minorities living in Pomurje (Hungarians and Croats), including the Roma.	64,887.75
TV IDEA — KANAL 10, D.O.O.	<i>Pomurski dnevnik</i> (News programme)	The broadcast focuses mainly on minority communities and the problems they encounter; it has a strong regional dimension — the Hungarian National Community, the Roma ethnic group.	80,000.00
KOROŠKI RADIO, D. O. O.	<i>Odmevi koroških dolin</i> (Echos of Carinthian Valleys)	The broadcast places special emphasis on the provision of information to Carinthian Slovenians living in the neighbouring Austria. Every Saturday (except in July and August) a special show <i>Odprta meja</i> (Open Borders) is broadcast focusing on topics related to Slovenians in the neighbouring countries, particularly on the economy and culture, as well as on the activities of Slovenian organisations and political parties.	74,512.50
RADIO ŠTUDENT INSTITUTE	Urban Student Media and Education Platform	Radio Študent cooperates with several minority and ethnic communities. Throughout the year, members of these communities receive intensive training in radio production to ensure the integration of individuals as well as the editorial and subject-matter quality of individual broadcasts. Members of minority communities produce and run such broadcasts. As part of the project, the following broadcasts that include minority communities are available: <i>Puko Učkur</i> — migrant workers, <i>Kontrola leta</i> (Flight Control) — broadcast by the Serbian national minority, <i>Mali granični prijelaz</i> (A small border crossing point) — broadcast by the Croatian national minority, <i>Sunrise Africa</i> — broadcast by the African community, <i>Romano horo</i> — broadcast by the Roma community.	81,600.00

GORENJSKI GLAS	<i>Priloga GG+/Snovanja (Annex GG+/Designing)</i>	The traditional column <i>Med sosedi</i> (Among Neighbours) provides information about the Slovenian minority in Austrian Carinthia. The <i>Multikulti</i> column focuses on minorities, ethnic communities, immigrants and emigrants.	18,000.00
KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION SOCIETY VÖTER	<i>Mi, zamejci 2017</i> (We, Slovenians living beyond the border)	The project covers 10-minute educational and informative broadcasts targeting Slovenians in the neighbouring countries and Slovenians living in the immediate vicinity of Pomurje, in Austria, Hungary and Croatia. The broadcasts are intended to raise awareness, provide counselling, educate and inform the public of Pomurje and Slovenians in the neighbouring countries.	4,496.00
		TOTAL	626,334.30

2018

Project title	Applicant	Community included (Roma, Hungarian, Italian, Serbian, Croatian, Slovenians in the neighbouring countries, etc.)	GRANTED (in EUR)
Priloga GG+/Snovanja (Annex GG +/Designing)	GORENJSKI GLAS, D. O. O., KRANJ	The traditional column <i>Med sosedi</i> (Among Neighbours) provides information about the Slovenian minority in Austrian Carinthia. In 2016, the <i>Multikulti</i> (Multicultural) column was introduced, focusing on minorities, ethnic communities, immigrants and emigrants.	22,609.80
<i>Most sožitja</i> (Bridge of Coexistence)	THE ROMA UNION OF SLOVENIA	The <i>Bridge of Coexistence</i> project contains stories that counter prejudices against Roma, present issues, life, habits and culture of the Roma. The broadcasts are in the Slovenian language and partly in Romani.	14,616.42

Urban Student Media and Education Platform 2018	RADIO ŠTUDENT INSTITUTE	As part of the project, the programme runs broadcasts with the participation of external associates and organisations representing minority communities, enabling them to be informed in their own language. These broadcasts are <i>Mali granični prijelaz</i> (A small border crossing point) — a mosaic programme in the Croatian language, <i>Migrantska frekvenca</i> (Migration Frequency) — broadcast about the integration and cooperation with refugees, <i>Klopca pod svobodnim soncem</i> — broadcast by the homeless about the homeless, Jugosfera show — broadcast by the citizens of the former Yugoslavia.	79,818.05
<i>Aktualno</i> (In Focus) — central news programmes on the Murski Val Radio	RADIO MURSKI VAL, d. o. o.	The central informative programme places particular emphasis on content relating to the Porabje Slovenians, cooperation with the neighbouring Austria, Hungary and Croatia, the lives and work of Hungarians and the Roma in Prekmurje. A constant feature of the programme covers border issues and national politics in view of the fact that the Murski val radio operates in the area populated by the Hungarian national community and the Roma ethnic community as well as in the neighbourhood area – Porabje, populated with members of the Slovenian nationality.	77,952.78
ZAHODNODOLENJSKI ODMEVI (TOPICAL NEWS FROM WEST DOLENJSKA)	UNIVOX, d. o. o.	The programme addresses the issues of the Roma community around Kočevje and Ribnica. The regular monthly broadcast <i>Romani Hours</i> made as a part of the project gives an opportunity to spread information on the life and culture of the Roma and the problems they face.	43,259.88
<i>Pomurski dnevnik</i> (News programme)	TV IDEA – KANAL 10, D. O. O.	The <i>Pomurski dnevnik</i> news broadcast mainly focuses on the life and functioning of the Hungarian national and Roma ethnic communities that have a strong presence in this local environment.	73,944.00

COLLECTIVE AND CULTURAL	MARŠ INSTITUTE	As part of the project, the broadcasting show <i>Medkulturni termin (Intercultural Time Slot)</i> is intended for intercultural exchange and presents religious and other minorities, immigrants and members of the national communities in Slovenia. The show is prepared by the radio staff who belong to a minority or are actively involved in the national community. A special time slot was awarded to the show <i>Romski termin (Romani Time Slot)</i> featuring a Roma creator and presenter as well as the explanation of the origin of the Roma songs and words.	5,176.08
<i>Kontrola leta</i> (Flight control) – a radio broadcast in the Serbian language	DANILO KIŠ SERBIAN CULTURAL CENTRE	The <i>Kontrola leta</i> programme is the only radio broadcast in the Serbian language in Slovenia. It focuses on the situation, culture and the needs of the Serbian minority community and other communities of the former Yugoslavia in order to address the non-visibility of a minority, minority stereotypes and a lack of intercultural understanding.	5,505.91
<i>Utrip Koroške</i> (Pulse of Carinthia)	KOROŠKI RADIO, d. o. o.	The project involves the <i>Odprta meja</i> (Open Border) show addressing exclusively the issues of the Slovenians living in Austrian Carinthia. The show is broadcast every Saturday.	70,213.03
News	TELEVIZIJA NOVO MESTO, d. o. o.	The broadcast also addresses the issues of the Roma community that has a strong presence in this area.	69,915.00
MI – ZAMEJCI 2018 (WE, SLOVENIANS LIVING BEYOND THE BORDER)	KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION SOCIETY VÓTER	The project consists of 10 broadcasts dealing with Slovenians living in the immediate vicinity of Pomurje. The broadcast is made in cooperation with the Slovenians living in Austria, Croatia and Hungary; with informative, cultural and educational programmes, it draws attention to Slovenians living beyond the border.	4,055.35
EVENTS	PRAK, d. o. o., Television AS	In addition to current events, the programme also broadcasts the lives and work of Slovenians in the neighbouring countries, members of the Hungarian and Croatian national communities, the Roma and others.	56,940.41

<i>eRast.si</i>	Goga Publishing House	Some contributions to the <i>eRast.si</i> portal also concern the study of the Roma culture and Roma issues in the wider Dolenjska region. The contributions present some social aspects of the Roma minority, covering its historical presence in the wider Dolenjska region, its social status throughout history and current issues related to their education and schooling, etc.	7,095.54
		TOTAL	531,102.25

2019

Project title	Applicant	Community included (Roma, Hungarian, Italian, Serbian, Croatian, Slovenians in the neighbouring countries, etc.)	Approved (in EUR)
(Iz)brano (Selected)	PODJETJE ZA INFORMIRANJE MURSKA SOBOTA, d. o. o.	The intersection of four countries, i.e. Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary and Austria, has an impact on the inhabitants of the Pomurje region who, therefore, keep abreast of nationality issues relating to Slovenians in Porabje and the Hungarian and Roma communities in Prekmurje.	23,100.00
<i>Manjšina v zrcalu zgodovine</i> (A minority in the mirror of history) — the contributions of retained authors	INSTITUTE FOR THE INFORMATION ACTIVITY OF THE HUNGARIAN NATIONAL COMMUNITY	The magazine is the only printed medium in Hungarian that informs members of this community in their mother tongue and is dedicated to the preservation of their culture and language. It plays an important role in knowing, integrating and accepting the minority by the majority population.	6,386.38
<i>Online Chat</i>	ZAVOD MULTIMEDIJA PANONIJA – MMP	The <i>Online Chat</i> is designed to also include minorities and the Roma, discuss the situation of Hungarians and Croats living in Pomurje and present the Roma culture and the political life of Roma.	4,840.61
<i>Priloga GG+/Snovanja</i> (Annex GG +/Designing)	GORENJSKI GLAS, D. O. O., KRANJ	The <i>Priloga GG+/Snovanja</i> (Annex GG +/Designing) is also intended to present the Slovenian minority in Austrian Carinthia (a regular column <i>Med sosedi</i> (Among Neighbours)). In 2016, the <i>Multikulti</i> (Multicultural) column was introduced, focusing on minorities, ethnic communities, immigrants and emigrants.	27,918.00

<i>Kontrola leta</i> (Flight control) – a radio broadcast in the Serbian language	SKC DANILO KIŠ	The <i>Kontrola leta</i> (Flight control) programme is the only radio broadcast in the Serbian language in Slovenia. It focuses on the situation, culture and the needs of the Serbian minority community and other communities of the former Yugoslavia.	7,276.50
<i>A propos: Slovenska umetnost prek meja</i> (Slovenian art across borders)	SKUPINA KAOS, d. o. o.	The broadcast will explore the working conditions of Slovenian artists living in neighbouring countries and in Europe.	10,492.04
<i>Pomurski dnevnik</i> (News programme)	TV IDEA – KANAL 10, D. O. O.	The <i>Pomurski dnevnik</i> news mainly focuses on the life and functioning of the Hungarian national and Roma ethnic communities that have a strong presence in this local environment.	85,580.00
Urban Student Media and Education Platform 2019	RADIO ŠTUDENT INSTITUTE	As part of the project, the programme runs broadcasts with the participation of external associates and organisations representing minority communities, enabling them to be informed in their own language. These broadcasts are <i>Mali granični prijelaz</i> (A small border crossing point) — a mosaic programme in the Croatian language, <i>Migrantska frekvenca</i> (Migration Frequency) — broadcast about the integration and cooperation with refugees, <i>Klopca pod svobodnim soncem</i> — broadcast by the homeless about the homeless, <i>Jugosfera</i> show — broadcast by the members of the former Yugoslavia, <i>Puko Učkur</i> .	95,700.00
<i>Most sožitja</i> (Bridge of Coexistence)	THE ROMA UNION OF SLOVENIA	The <i>Bridge of Coexistence</i> project contains stories that counter prejudices against Roma, present the issues, life, habits and culture of the Roma. The broadcasts are in the Slovenian language and partly in Romani.	19,814.03
<i>Zahodnodolenjski odmevi</i> (Topical news from West Dolenjska)	UNIVOX, D. O. O.	The <i>Roma community</i> broadcast provides information to the Roma and contributes to better cooperation between the Roma and other members of the population, reports on the life of the Roma, their cultural participation, their habits and their education.	57,016.00

<i>Aktualno</i> (In Focus) — central news programmes on the Murski Val Radio	RADIO MURSKI VAL, d. o. o.	The central informative programme places particular emphasis on topics relating to the Porabje Slovenians, cooperation with the neighbouring Austria, Hungary and Croatia, the lives and work of Hungarians and the Roma in Prekmurje. A permanent feature of the programme covers border issues and national politics in view of the fact that the Murski val radio operates in the area populated by the Hungarian national community and the Roma ethnic community as well as in the neighbourhood area – Porabje populated with members of the Slovenian nationality.	99,280.72
<i>Dogodki</i> (Events)	Pravo, d. o. o.	Every month, at least one broadcast will report on the life of the Slovenians living in the neighbouring countries and on the life of members of minorities living in Pomurje (Hungarians and Croats).	74,932.55
<i>Utrip Koroške</i> (Pulse of Carinthia)	KOROSKA RADIO	As part of the project, the <i>Open Border</i> broadcast is intended for the Slovenians living in Austrian Carinthia. It addresses exclusively the issues of the Slovenians living in Austrian Carinthia.	91,868.04
NAŠ ČAS, d. o. o.	<i>Prvi pri vas doma</i> (Your first choice)	The project covers specific topics, such as presenting the life and cultural production of minorities and other nationalities, Romano Vazo, Međimurje Society, Bosniak Society, Croatian Cultural Society, Serbian Society, thereby contributing to a better understanding and acceptance of tolerance.	85,446.66
KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION SOCIETY VÖTER	MI – ZAMEJCI 2019 (WE, SLOVENIANS LIVING BEYOND THE BORDER)	The project consists of 10 broadcasts dealing with Slovenians living in the immediate vicinity of Pomurje. The broadcast is made in cooperation with the Slovenians living in Austria, Croatia and Hungary; with informative, cultural and educational programmes it draws attention to Slovenians living beyond the border. It also covers the provision of information to the minorities populated in Pomurje and their cooperation.	6,006.44
		TOTAL	695,657.79