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



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Convention for the Protection of National Minorities –
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Government of the Republic of Croatia

**Fifth Report
of the Republic of Croatia on the Implementation of the Framework
Convention for the Protection of National Minorities**

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INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to Article 25 of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, the Republic of Croatia hereby submits its Fifth Periodic Report for the period from 2014 to 2018. The Government of the Republic of Croatia has carefully considered the Fourth Opinion of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities as well as Resolution CM/ResCMN(2017)55 of the Committee of Ministers on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, adopted on 11 May 2017 at the 1286th meeting of the Council of Europe.

In order to comply with the recommendations from the last evaluation report, and having considered all remarks and proposals, the Government is resolute in its intent to meet its commitments and has continued pursuing its policy of advancing and safeguarding national minority rights.

The Government of the Republic of Croatia approved the Fourth Report on Implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in October 2014. The Report was drafted under the coordination of the Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities (hereinafter: OHRRNM). At its meeting held in Strasbourg on 11 May 2017, the Committee of Ministers' Deputies of the Council of Europe adopted the Resolution on the Implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by Croatia. The adoption of the Resolution marked the completion of the fourth cycle of monitoring the implementation of the Framework Convention by Croatia.

In order to further enhance the implementation of the Framework Convention, the Committee of Ministers put forward a series of recommendations for government authorities in the Republic of Croatia with regard to issues requiring immediate action.

As part of the recommendations for immediate action, the authorities are invited to prioritise attention to minority rights as an integral part of human rights in the government agenda, to condemn systematically and promptly all instances of nationalist and anti-minority rhetoric in the public and political discourse and the media, and ensure that all cases of hate crime and hate speech are effectively investigated and sanctioned.

In the preceding period, national minority rights have improved in most of the facets. The Republic of Croatia continuously upgrades its system for protecting national minority rights as part of its legislative and legal framework, attempting to accord maximum consideration to the views of national minorities.

The progress made in implementation of the Framework Convention has also been facilitated by regular annual seminars organised by the OHRRNM involving participation by representatives from the Council of Europe Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. In order to express their views on this document, input to discussions held at these meetings was provided by representatives of national minority associations and councils, national minority members in the Croatian Parliament and representatives of the Council for National Minorities.

By implementing the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities, the Republic of Croatia is also fulfilling its commitments under international treaties to which it is a party, in particular, the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

With a view to further advancing national minority rights, the Government of the Republic of Croatia has adopted Operational Programmes for National Minorities.

During the Croatian chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (May – October 2018), one of the priorities was precisely the *effective protection of the rights of national minorities and vulnerable groups*, with special attention being given to the status of national minorities, minority and regional languages as well as the integration of persons belonging to the Roma national minority.

Croatian chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

As part of the programme of the Croatian chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, the Council of Europe and the OHRRNM organised a high-level conference held in Strasbourg on 18-19 June 2018 to mark the 20th anniversary of the entry into force of the Framework Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. The conference was opened by Marija Pejčinović Burić, Croatia's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, and Thornbjorn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and its participants included high-ranking officials such as ministers, state secretaries and deputy ministers from no less than ten member states.

In her opening address, Pejčinović Burić stressed that this was the first time Croatia had chaired the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and that the issue of promoting and protecting the rights of national minorities was one of the priorities of Croatia's chairmanship platform. She said she was glad that marking this important 20th anniversary fell precisely at the time of Croatia's chairmanship of the CoE's Committee of Ministers. She pointed out that Croatia was among the first to sign the documents, which testified to great

importance it attached to the protection of national minorities, and that a high level of protection was ensured under: the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia, the Preamble of which lists 22 national minorities, the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities and special laws and other regulations. She added that all provisions of the two instruments had been transposed by their incorporation in the Constitutional Act, so that monitoring its implementation also implied a follow-up on the application of their provisions.

The conference, which gathered more than 200 participants, provided a forum to analyse the level of success achieved theretofore in the implementation of the aforementioned instruments and to present the positions of governments as well as proposals for improvement from an expert perspective. Focus was also placed on strengthening the mechanism for monitoring political, social and technological achievements which bore on the status of national minorities and minority languages as well as digitalisation challenges for persons belonging to national minorities. Along with the opening of the high-level session, presentations were also made as part of five panel sessions: Minorities and Minority Languages in a Changing Europe; Importance of the Council of Europe's Standards in ensuring International Protection of Minority Rights; Civil Society and the Implementation of the Council of Europe's Conventions on Minority Rights; Minority Languages and Education in Multilingual Societies; Minority Languages 2.0 – Digitisation and Other New Development; and the Closing Session on the Framework Convention and the Language Charter – Institutional Responses to the Challenges Ahead. Special highlights included discussions related to depoliticising minority issues, monitoring as a key element in the protection of national minorities, the need for new ratifications and strengthening the commitments undertaken by the states parties, while respecting the specifics of each country; and strengthening the dialogue between the committees in charge of monitoring the implementation of the conventions and the states parties. Croatia received acknowledgments for its choice of priorities, i.e. its commitment to the implementation of these instruments. It was stressed that the conference outcomes would contribute to further improvements in the protection of national minorities.

In addition to the aforementioned conference, the OHRRNM – acting in cooperation with the Council of Europe – organised the expert seminar “Transition from Education to Employment for Roma Youth – a Key Step in Roma Inclusion,” which was held on 25 and 26 September 2018 on the Brijuni Islands and involved participation by the assistant minister of foreign affairs. Its goal was to trigger discussion about the correlation between education and better social and economic inclusion of Roma people. A presentation was made of the activities related with the NEET population (young people not in education, employment or training), the activities undertaken at the Pan-European level and the experiences of EU member states and candidate countries as well as other Council of Europe members.

PART I. OVERVIEW OF IMPROVEMENTS IN THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS BELONGING TO NATIONAL MINORITIES IN THE REPORTING PERIOD

From the Report of the Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities

The Government of the Republic of Croatia submitted its last Report on the Implementation of the Framework Convention in October 2014. In the meantime, the active engagement of government authorities and national minority representatives has led to further improvements to the rights of national rights as well as the legislative framework governing their rights. In addition, a number of measures have been undertaken to encourage the best possible implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities and other regulations. With a view to the fullest possible achievement of national minority rights, the Government of the Republic of Croatia has ensured the required implementing capacity in government authorities and increased, on a year-to-year basis, the funding allocated for the achievement of national minority rights.

In the preceding period, the Government of the Republic of Croatia has dedicated particular attention to the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. Overall, since the first seminar on monitoring the implementation of the Framework Convention to date, there has been significant progress in the improvement of national minority rights. At those seminars, persons belonging to national minorities had the opportunity to present their views and proposals and to point out the difficulties they encountered, as a result of which a positive step has been made toward the exercise of their rights. A particular area where progress has been achieved is the participation of national minorities in cultural and public life and in the decision-making process.

The election of members to the Croatian Parliament, held in 2016, resulted in the appropriate representation of national minorities, whose members were elected within a special, 12th constituency. Specifically, eight MPs from the ranks of national minorities were elected in the special constituency in keeping with the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities and the Act on Election of Representatives to the Croatian Parliament.

The members of the Croatian Parliament from among the ranks of national minorities were formerly elected in line with legislation in effect prior to adoption of the Amendments to the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities in June 2010. Specifically, these amendments included, *inter alia*, changes to Article 19, to the effect that it now stipulates that a minimum of three seats in the Croatian Parliament shall be reserved for representatives of those national minorities which, on the effective date of this Constitutional Act, account for more than 1.5 percent of the population of the Republic of Croatia and which secures their

right to representation on the basis of universal suffrage, whereas national minorities which account for less than 1.5% of the population of the Republic of Croatia shall, in addition to their right to exercise universal suffrage, be entitled to the special right to vote, enabling them to elect five members belonging to such national minorities from within their own special constituencies.

The OHRRNM, acting in cooperation with the Council for National Minorities, organised a Seminar on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, which was held in on 3 July 2017 in the building of the Croatian Parliament. The meeting highlighted the importance of the adoption of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities as well as the commitments undertaken by the Republic of Croatia. The Framework Convention, which was ratified by the Croatian Parliament in 1997, set clear standards on the protection of national minorities. Pursuant to Article 25 of the Convention, the signatory states are obliged to furnish the Council of Europe with reports on legislative and other measures taken to give effect to the principles set out in the Convention.

As the four-year term of office of the members of the Council for National Minorities expired, the Croatian Government, proceeding with the aim of enforcing the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities, appointed new members of this advisory body in March 2015. The new members of the Council for National Minorities, appointed from among the ranks of renowned cultural, professional, scholarly and religious representatives of national minorities, include ethnic Jews, Serbs, Albanians, Austrians and Montenegrins. The newly appointed members of the Council for National Minorities who were nominated by specific national minority councils include representatives of the German, Slovenian, Ukrainian, Macedonian, Ruthenian and Slovak national minorities. A representative of the Jewish minority was appointed the chair of the Council for National Minorities, and representatives of the Serbian and German national minorities were appointed deputy chairs. The Council members also include eight national minority members of the Croatian Parliament.

The Report on Implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities also contains standard templates designed to track statistics on the representation of national minorities in government administration and judicial bodies as well as local and regional governments. To ensure that employment statistics on persons belonging to national minorities is tracked on a continued basis, the Government passed a decision pursuant to which the Ministry of Public Administration and the Ministry of Justice are required to continue gathering and providing data using the aforementioned templates as part of their annual reporting.

Each year the OHRRNM coordinates the preparation of the Report on Implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities and the Spending of Funds Allocated

in Central Budget of the Republic of Croatia for the Needs of National Minorities. In the period from 2014 to 2017, the funding allocated for national minority purposes through the relevant ministries and the OHHRNM was used as follows: a total of HRK 144,360,358.26 was spent in 2014, a total of HRK 148,640,839.61 in 2015, a total of HRK 131,152,781.00 in 2016 and a total of HRK 144,191,391.85 in 2017, which amounts to a total sum of HRK 568,345,370.72. Data is currently being gathered from the relevant institutions for the compilation of a report on implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities for 2018, which will be submitted to the Croatian Government in June. Based on the data on implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities collected to date, we can stress that in compliance with the Operational Programmes for National Minorities, funding has increased in comparison to the preceding years where this pertains to national minority educational programmes, as follows: via the Ministry of Science and Education, from HRK 31,785,898.73 to HRK 35,387,459.57; for exercising cultural autonomy via the Council for National Minorities, from HRK 31,839,500.00 to HRK 33,840,000.00; and for programmes of national minority associations via the Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities, from HRK 22,892,846.00 to HRK 41,902,907.00.

The OHRRNM has, in cooperation with the Council for National Minorities, continued to organise regular seminars for national minority councils and representatives in order to create and improve conditions for their effective participation in the decision-making process at the local and regional levels. The seminars involved participation by representatives of local and regional governments and provided forums for active efforts to develop the forms of participation by national minority members in the decision-making process and to insist on the creation of conditions for their effective work. From 2014 to 2018, these seminars were held for national minority councils and representatives from: County of Slavonski Brod-Posavina (Slavonski Brod, 3 December 2014), County of Šibenik-Knin (Šibenik, 24 April 2015), County of Zadar (Zadar, 9 November 2016), County of Koprivnica-Križevci (Koprivnica, 14 April 2016), County of Istria (Pula, 13 September 2017), County of Split-Dalmatia (Split, 7 September 2018) and, again, County of Zadar (Zadar, 14 September 2018).

During the reporting period, the OHRRNM – acting in cooperation with the Council for National Minorities – organised four seminars entitled “The Media and National Minorities in the Republic of Croatia – Protection of Minorities and the Role of the Media in the Democratisation of the Croatian Society”.

For national minorities, the exercise of their right to access the mass media is of key importance to advancing the equality of minorities, fostering tolerance and promoting coexistence with the majority population, and preserving cultural identity. The media are duty-bound to contribute to the promotion and observance of fundamental human rights and

freedoms, understanding, respect for diversity, democratic achievements and the development of a culture of dialogue to ensure the acceptance of national minorities in the society as its equal members and active participants in social processes. The seminar provided an opportunity to discuss the issues of minority representation in radio and television programmes at the national, regional and local levels as well as the print media and the importance of the media's role in preserving the social and cultural values of minority identity, with main emphasis on the importance of combating stereotypes and hate speech in social and electronic media and the media's role in raising the awareness of respect for and understanding of others and their differences, developing tolerance, sensitivity to instances of discrimination and disrespect for the constitutional and legal rights of persons belonging to national minorities in Croatian society. The seminar was also an opportunity to present Croatian Radio-Television's documentary "*Pravda*" ("Justice").

According to the data of the OHRRNM on funding secured in the 2014-2017 period, including data gathered thus far for 2018, a total sum of HRK 113,280,228.17 has been spent for safeguarding and promotion of the status and rights of national minorities.

Cultural autonomy programmes of national minority associations and institutions are financed through the Council for National Minorities and the Ministry of Culture. Co-financing of the programmes of national minority associations and institutions by means of central budget allocations via the Council for National Minorities contribute significantly to the implementation of cultural autonomy programmes. Over the reporting period under review, national minority associations and institutions received, via the Council, allocations of HRK 167,124,603.60, broken down as follows: HRK 33,698,000.00 in 2014, HRK 35,690,500.00 in 2015, HRK 31,819,500.00 in 2016, HRK 31,830,800.00 in 2017 and HRK 34,085,803.60 in 2018. The funding allocated to national minority associations and institutions in the reporting period can be found in the appendix to this Report (Appendix 4).

Operational programmes for national minorities

One of the objectives of the Croatian Government for its current term from 2016 to 2020 is to continue enhancing the existing level of protection for national minority rights. Accordingly, at its session of 24 November 2016, the Croatian Government passed the Decision on the Preparation of Operational Programmes for National Minorities with a view to defining mechanisms to secure national minority rights and support the activities of their bodies in keeping with the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities and other special legislation. Operational programmes for national minorities consist of the general Operational Programme for the Protection and Enhancement of the Existing Level of Rights of all National Minorities, which applies to all national minorities listed in the Preamble of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia, and specific operational programmes. Given the

specifics of particular national minorities and the need to enhance the existing level of their protection, specific operational programmes have been prepared for the Serbian, Italian, Czech, Slovak, Hungarian, Albanian and Roma national minorities.

Pursuant to the Conclusion of the Croatian Government of 24 August 2017, the Operational Programmes for National Minorities have been prepared for the period from 2017 to 2020, with implementation time-frames and implementing bodies being defined for each activity.

Enhancing the status of the Roma National Minority

At its session of 29 November 2012, the Government of the Republic of Croatia adopted the National Strategy for Roma Inclusion from 2013 to 2020 (hereinafter: NSRI). The NSRI relies on the provisions of international instruments on human and national minority rights, to which the Republic of Croatia is a party. It has been aligned with the identified needs and challenges related to the social inclusion of the Roma at all levels: local, regional, national and European. Furthermore, while preparing the NSRI, account was taken of the 2011 EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies (COM(2011) 173/4). Among other things, the Operational Programme provides for the revision and implementation of the NSRI as well as efforts to enhance the work of the Commission on Monitoring the Implementation of the National Strategy, with special emphasis on the issues of education, social integration, employment and housing. The Operational Programme provides an additional contribution to the implementation of the NSRI.

In that context, we should note that the following measures were implemented in 2018 under the Operational Programme for the Roma National Minority: as part of the Operational Programme “Efficient Human Resources 2014-2020”, a call for proposals was launched to finance the activities which would further promote and develop inclusive education for Roma minority members, with further support being provided for the Romani Studies graduate university programme at the Indology and Far East Studies Department of the Zagreb University’s Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. Working conditions were improved for the “Kali Sara” Union of Roma in the RoC as the umbrella Roma organisation in the Republic of Croatia, including the provision of adequate premises and their refurbishment.

Efforts have been made to continue with the implementation of measures for the legalisation, urban development and improvement of Roma settlements and Roma-inhabited areas of Croatia, including support for activities aimed at their further improvement, and, following the adoption of the Housing Act late in 2018, efforts were launched to define a model to provide housing for Roma minority members and establish eligibility criteria for beneficiaries, as well as modalities for exercising rights under specific housing aid models. Continued efforts are also made to support new and complete the ongoing infrastructural

projects in Roma settlements and Roma-inhabited areas, such as the construction or completion and equipment of the community centres in Trnovac, Đurđevac, Capraške Poljane, Kutina, Bistrinci, Torjanci and Darda as well as the sports grounds in Podturen and Capraške Poljane. The Croatian Government has secured the required funding and, in collaboration with organisations representing the interests of the Roma national minority and the Roma minority member in the Croatian Parliament, continued the process to develop the Roma cemetery in Uštica, upgrade the museum and commemorate International Roma Genocide Remembrance Day (Samudaripen) as well as other sites of Roma suffering in Croatia during World War II.

In this context, we should point out that ongoing efforts have also been made to continue implementation of measures aimed at improving the situation of Roma community members in most the Republic of Croatia, with further progress being reported in most of the areas, which is also reflected in detailed reports on the implementation of the NSRI, which are publicly available on the OHRRNM's website.¹ It should be noted that, despite budgetary constraints, the central budget still provides for an increase in funding required to achieve NSRI objectives.

The latest available data are contained in the Report on the Implementation of the National Strategy for Roma Inclusion for 2016 and 2017, which covers the following areas: education, employment and economic inclusion, health care, social welfare, physical planning, housing and environmental protection, inclusion in social and cultural life, status resolution, combating discrimination and assistance in exercising of rights, improved statistics collection and alignment of programmes with international standards and ratified treaties in the field of human and minority rights.

The Report clearly shows continuity in the implementation of activities within all strategic NSRI areas, indicating that most of the implementing bodies responsible for measures defined in the previous Action Plan (government administration bodies, local and regional governments) are still carrying out activities aimed at improving the situation of Roma minority members. The continuity of implementation is particularly visible in the following strategic areas: education and economic inclusion, social welfare, inclusion in social and cultural life, and status resolution, combating discrimination and assistance in exercising rights. A step forward from compared to previous periods has also been made in the area of physical planning, housing and environmental protection.

In the reporting period under review, the key challenges still remained in the area of improved statistics gathering, with some of the strategic areas showing the need for a thorough

¹ <https://pravamanjina.gov.hr/dokumenti/10>

redefinition of goals and measures given the very limited amount of implementation data, which is especially manifest in the area of health-care and, to some extent, in the area of physical planning, housing and environmental protection. The same goes for measures within the remit of local and regional governments as their implementing bodies, where – in addition to exclusive responsibility for the implementation of specific measures – efforts are needed to define mechanisms to secure funding for such measures as well as their sustainable implementation.

As a result of the foregoing and based on the findings of an external evaluation of the NSRI and the accompanying Action Plan (2013-2015), the OHRRNM benefited from its planning and implementation of the IPA 2012 project on “Collecting and Monitoring Baseline Data for Efficient Implementation of the National Strategy for Roma Inclusion”, completed in August 2018, to create conditions for an exceptionally precise tracking of a series of parameters in all of the aforementioned NSRI areas and to set up the future strategic framework based on scientifically grounded facts. As an example of good practice, the project has already received commendations from the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), the Council of Europe’s Ad Hoc Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (CAHROM).

The efforts made by the Republic of Croatia have also been recognised in the European Commission’s Communication on *Assessing the Implementation of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies and the Council Recommendation on Effective Roma Integration Measures in the Member States*. In the section of its Communication² where it discusses the situation in Croatia, the Commission gave a positive assessment to the promotion of higher participation by Roma children in preschool education and access to assistance in learning the Croatian language. Furthermore, in the area of housing, advances were noted in access to European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIFs), which support the physical, economic and social regeneration of deprived urban and rural areas.

The Communication highlighted the contribution of the National Roma Contact Point, i.e. the OHRRNM, which is involved in the design, implementation and monitoring of the policies aimed at improving the situation of the Roma national minority, provides capacity building support through various grants and cooperates with Roma minority councils, Roma and pro-Roma organisations, and local and regional authorities as well as all of the four Ombudsman offices. Special mention was also made of the work of the Commission on Monitoring the Implementation of the National Strategy for Roma Inclusion for the period from 2013 to 2020, which is composed of representatives of the Roma national minority and the relevant

² Assessing the Implementation of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies and the Council Recommendation on Effective Roma Integration Measures in the Member States, Brussels, COM (2016) 424, 27 June 2016 (http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/files/roma-report-2016_en.pdf).

line ministries, as well as the monitoring and reporting methods and the conduct of studies and research efforts.

In the central budget of the Republic of Croatia – specifically, under the budget headings of the bodies and agencies responsible for implementing measures – a total of HRK 23,874,567.92 was allocated for the implementation of the NSRI in 2016, with a total of HRK 25,607,617.33 being spent from the central budget for 2017. Data is currently being gathered from the relevant institutions for the compilation of the reports on implementation of this Strategy for 2018, which will soon be submitted to the Croatian Government. According to the data gathered thus far, at the national level these bodies have spent a minimum of HRK 35,367,848.34 in 2018, which is a considerable increase in comparison to 2017, as follows: via the Ministry of Science and Education, from HRK 11,390,874.28 to HRK 12,623,229.88; via the Croatian Employment Service, from HRK 8,938,507.51 to HRK 10,332,89.71; via the Ministry of Construction and Physical Planning, from HRK 485,997.88 to HRK 1,750,490.90; via the Council for National Minorities, from HRK 968,000.00 to HRK 1,418,000.00 and via the Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities, support to the umbrella Roma association went from HRK 2,500,000.00 to HRK 5,437,185.52, within which HRK 1,000,000 was allocated for work on the Uštica Memorial Centre and commemoration of the suffering of the Roma during the Second World War.

Under the European Union's pre-accession assistance programme, the OHRRNM benefited from the "Roma Support Project – Phase III", financed as part of the EU's pre-accession assistance programme IPA 2008. The Project's objective was to enhance and facilitate active and full participation of the Roma national minority in the economic, cultural and social life of Croatia's society, while preserving their own identity, culture and tradition. The Project's purpose was to improve environmental and general living conditions in the Roma settlements of Orehovica and Mursko Središće (Sitnice) in County of Međimurje by developing infrastructure (roads, water supply and power grid). The total project value is € 1,957,233.77, of which 75% or € 1,467,925.33 is funded by the European Union, while co-financing by the Republic of Croatia accounts for € 489,308.44 (25%).

In July 2014, the "Making the Most of EU Funds for Roma" initiative launched a call for proposals to award scholarships for young Roma for their internship in bodies, institutions and organisations dealing with EU integration processes in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia and Serbia. Through this programme, three young Roma (1M/2F) were hired in Croatia for a period of one year – one in the OHRRNM, one in the United Nations Development Programme Office and one at Zagreb's Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences/"Step by Step" Public Open University.

During the period under review, the OHRRNM organised a series of seminars targeted at building the capacity of persons belonging to the Roma national minority, i.e. empowering and educating Roma representatives for participation in decision-making processes and the exercise of their rights as well as greater inclusion in social life. In this process, as well as in the NSRI as a whole, special focus was placed on women and youth, as well as discrimination and segregation, with most of such activities being undertaken as part of major projects.

The OHRRNM, acting in cooperation with the Government's Office for Gender Equality, organised a round table on the "Status of Roma Women in the Republic of Croatia", which was held on 1 December 2015 and involved participation by active, mostly young, Roma women and the Gender Equality Ombudswoman's Office. The occasion was also used to set up their informal network.

The OHRRNM organised a seminar on the "Empowerment and Education of Young People Belonging to National Minorities" which was held on 4 and 5 December 2014 in Marija Bistrica with a view to empowering young minority members. Its goals were: (1) to inform young people belonging to national minorities about the opportunities they had in the context of their community development processes; (2) to build the capacity of young minority members for active participation in their community development processes; and (3) to network young minority members and create prerequisites for them to act together in order joint action to address their common challenges. The first part of the seminar included presentations by experts from relevant institutions involved in the protection of national minority rights, such as the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, the Croatian Employment Service, the Ombudsman's Office and the Gender Equality Ombudswoman's Office. The seminar was attended by twelve young minority members, in particular, representatives of the Czech, Albanian, Roma, Bosniak and Macedonian national minorities.

In 2016, the OHRRNM organised its regular annual seminar for young Roma men and women. It was held on 6 December 2016 and preceded a two-day focused discussion for young people, which took place on 7 and 8 December 2016 as part of the project National Roma Platform "Living Equality". The seminar and the discussion gathered about twenty young Roma women and men from all parts of Croatia with sizeable Roma populations. The seminar was aimed at building the capacity of young Roma men and women for community activism and action, and the focused discussions sought to hash over NSRI implementation at the local level in the areas of education, employment, health and housing and to identify the needs of young people belonging to the Roma national minority. Furthermore, participants also defined measures and/or activities to improve the situation of young Roma in the Republic of Croatia, which would be carried out under the new Action Plan for the Implementation of NSRI ("AP").

With special attention being paid to young Roma men and women within the project National Roma Platform “Living Equality” and the preparation of the new AP, 2016 saw the completion of a programme focused on young Roma minority members as its target group. A consortium composed of three partnering organisations – the Centre for Peace, Legal Advice and Psychosocial Assistance of Vukovar, the Volunteer Centre of Osijek and the Roma Youth Organisation (ROM) as the national partner of the Making the Most of EU Funds for Roma (MtM) initiative of the Open Society Foundations (OFS) – acting in concert with the OHRRNM, launched a multi-module programme to build the capacity of and support young Roma people in taking an active role in the development and implementation of projects in their communities. Implementation commenced during the course of 2015, involving participation by ten young Roma women and men from throughout Croatia. Five more modules were organised in the course of 2016.

The OHRRNM also supported the participation of Croatia’s representatives in the Slovak Presidency of the European Union, whose priorities also included progress in Roma integration. Four young Roma men and women took part in a European high-level event dedicated Roma youth empowerment, held in Bratislava from 9 to 11 October 2016.

Support was also provided for the implementation of the pan-European project “For Roma, with Roma”³. As part of the project, targeted activities were undertaken to fight discrimination and stereotypes against the Roma. Croatia’s representatives, including a number of primary schools and three journalists, also participated in a pan-European drawing competition and activities for media professionals.

The pilot project on Capacity Building for Roma Civil Society and Enhancing its Involvement in the Monitoring of National Roma Integration Strategies was implemented from March 2017 to December 2018. It involved participation by approximately 90 NGOs from 27 EU member states and was financed by the European Commission. The project’s objective was to contribute to strengthening the mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of the national Roma integration strategies through systematic civil society monitoring.

The added value of such monitoring comes from the independent status and the field experience of participating NGOs. In that context, the project was expected to develop the policy monitoring capacity of civil society and support the preparation of high-quality, comprehensive annual monitoring reports. Unfortunately, after the first call for participation addressed to NGOs in May 2017, not a single valid application came from the Republic of Croatia, with Rijeka’s Roma Youth Association “Roma Future” being selected for

³ For more details, go to the EC’s website: http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/roma/for-roma-with-roma/index_en.htm.

implementation in Croatia in the second round. Given the need to further build the capacity of civil society in Croatia and to network civil society organisations within the EU, the OHRRNM's representatives supported the implementation of the project both at the EU level (e.g. within the network of National Roma Contact Points) and in the Republic of Croatia.

Numerous activities were also carried out through efforts made by umbrella Roma organisations. Thus, a total of HRK 3,000,000 was secured for the work of the Roma National Council in 2014. The same amount was also allocated in 2015, of which HRK 1,500,000 went for the work of the RNC, while HRK 1,498,000.00 went for the refurbishment of the Organisation's premises. In 2016, the Roma National Council received HRK 375,000.00, while the Kali Sara Union of Roma in the RoC received HRK 1,045,000.00. In 2017, the Kali Sara Union of Roma in the RoC of Zagreb received HRK 2,500,000.00.

Notwithstanding their oftentimes limited capacity, local Roma organisations also make their contribution to achieving the NSRI objectives. The Government's Office for Cooperation with NGOs acts as a beneficiary institution for EU funds, in the capacity implementing authority for the civil society sector. In 2014, the Government's Office for Cooperation with NGOs launched two calls for proposals for grant schemes under the Operational Programme "Human Resources Development 2007-2013" (ESF): "Micro-projects of Support to Innovative Activities of Small Civil Society Organisations for Local Development" and "Building the Capacity of Civil Society Organisations to Provide Social Services". Following these two calls for proposals, contracts were signed for 70 projects by civil society organisations, where project partners also included Roma organisations, as a result of which Roma people benefited from the aforementioned project activities, too. Specifically, Roma Association of the County of Sisak-Moslavina was a partner in the project on "Building the Capacity and Capability of Social Service Providers for Senior Citizens in Areas of Special State Concern through Employment, Education, Social Inclusion and Good Governance in Civil Society Organisations at the Local Level", implemented by the Iskra ('Spark') Local Community Development Organisation of Sisak (HRK 194,225.00).

Following a call for proposal announced as part of the ESFOP "Human Resources Development" in December 2014, a contract was signed for the "Roma Inclusion Advocacy Project" implemented by the Centre for Peace, Legal Advice and Psychosocial Assistance, with the Institute of the Transitional Research and National Education Association (STINE Institute) and the Roma Friendship Association LUNA as its partners. The project value was € 97,904.42. Its objective was to enhance the capacity of Roma SCOs and Roma community representatives for monitoring and advocacy activities aimed at the implementation of Roma inclusion measures from national and international strategic documents; to increase active participation by Roma SCOs and Roma community representatives in advocacy activities aimed at the implementation of Roma inclusion measures; and to increase the media visibility

of Roma inclusion issues in an objective and affirmative manner. In the IPA Programme to Foster Volunteering, the Zvono ('Bell') Association and its partners including the City of Belišće Pensioners Association, the City of Belišće, the Valpovo Social Welfare Centre and the Council of Roma National Minority in the County of Osijek-Baranja are implementing the "New Deal for Volunteerism" project (total value: € 120,371.38). Its goal is to strengthen the Zvono local volunteer centre by setting up an inclusive volunteer education centre, developing cooperation with local authorities and developing infrastructure for an inclusive volunteer association.

The Office for Cooperation with NGOs is also implementing the co-financing scheme for previously approved EU-funded projects carried out by civil society organisations. Accordingly, three projects were co-financed in 2014 to improve living conditions for the Roma national minority, i.e. projects where Roma associations acted as partners, including: the "Ne boj se - Madara" ("Do Not Fear - Madara") Association (the Youth In Action Programme): the TRAVel – Travel Variety, Equality & Learning project, co-financed with HRK 8,100.00; the Centre for Peace, Legal Advice and Psychosocial Assistance of Vukovar: the Roma Inclusion Advocacy project, implemented in partnership with the Roma Friendship Association Luna and co-financed with HRK 77,100.00; and the "Step by Step" Public Open University: the Reyn-Croatia project (the Roma Children Support Network), implemented in partnership with the UZOR Roma Education Association and co-financed with HRK 93,857.55. The implementation of measures was financed from regular budgetary funds allocated to the Office for Cooperation with NGOs. A total of HRK 179,057.55 was spent to co-finance the implementation of the aforementioned three projects, i.e. the projects where Roma associations acted as implementing agencies or partners, from EU funds.

In 2014, following its Call for Proposals for an NGO Grant Scheme for Projects Focused on the Protection of, Respect for and Promotion of Human Rights, the OHRRNM – having reviewed the preliminary list of projects selected under the priority axis "Raising Awareness of Human Rights among Women Belonging to National Minorities" – chose a project worth HRK 30,000.00 by the OLJIN ("Education for Love and Nonviolence") Association aimed raising the awareness of Roma women about their rights through stories and puppet shows. Having considered the preliminary list of projects selected for financing under the priority axis "Support for Young People at Risk of Poverty", the OHRRNM chose a HRK 20,000.00-project by the Međimurje Roma Well-being Association.

The programmes carried out to date in order to build the capacity of Roma associations have also led to a successful implementation of projects by civil society organisations, especially at the local level. For instance, with support provided under schemes launched by funds from European Economic Area countries and the Kingdom of Norway, the UZOR (Roma Education) Association of Orehovica implemented a project to survey and advocate for the

needs of young people, including the involvement of young volunteers in the preparation of a social map of the Roma settlement of Orehovica, the implementation of youth empowerment workshops and advocacy for the needs of young residents of the Roma settlement of Orehovica in order to reach out to a wider community (in particular, decision-makers at the municipal and county levels). The value of support totalled HRK 26,300.00. The Roma Youth Association of Sitnice (Mursko Središće) carried out the “Roma Wireless Internet” project. Workshops were organised for young Roma to increase their safe internet browsing, provide internet access for the entire Roma settlement and neighbouring streets, and show how to download video and audio content safely and legally via internet services.

The implementation of this initiative has also strengthened cooperation with local/regional institutions. The value of support totalled HRK 25,630.00. The Roma Culture Club of Darda implemented the “Open Roma Museum” project, supported with HRK 22,110. We should also highlight the project “Romona – Roma Women Entrepreneurship Incubator”, managed by the City of Čakovec as part of the IPA 2011 programme, which is implemented by the Council of Europe and involves participation by the OHRRNM. The United Nations Development Programme (hereinafter: UNDP) Office in the Republic of Croatia supported a social entrepreneurship training initiative. The implementation of this € 20,000 project commenced in February 2015 and its end beneficiaries included young Roma women from the Kuršanec settlement.

Following a call for proposals launched as part of the IPA 2012 programme for “Building the Capacity of Civil Society Organisations to Ensure the Effective Implementation of European Union Standards in Exercising Human Rights”, funding was provided for 22 projects aimed at ensuring the efficient application for European Union standards in strengthening human rights. The purpose of the call was to strengthen the contribution of civil society to a consistent implementation of European Union standards on the protection of human rights and the rights of national minorities, enhance citizen participation and improve the situation of Roma people in Croatia and the exercise of their rights.

Among the selected projects, seven were aimed at improving access to human rights for the Roma minority. The total value of the seven projects amounted to € 861,824.79 and their implementation lasted from November 2015 to June 2017:

- The GTF Initiative for Sustainable Growth implemented the project “ROMA LI: Capacity Building of Local Government and Establishing a Young Roma CSO in the County of Lika-Senj for Improved Access to Human Rights” in partnership with the Gačanka Association and the Better Future Association of Roma Women in Croatia. The project’s objective was to strengthen and improve the visibility of Roma minority interests by building the capacity of young Roma in the County of

Lika-Senja and raise the awareness of the need to bring together Roma OCSs and the (majority) community and institutions.

- The Legal Information Centre, acting in cooperation with the Croatian Institute for Local Self-Government, County of Slavonski Brod-Posavina and the Network of Roma Associations in Croatia, implemented the project “Legal Inclusion and Sustainable Integration of Roma in Croatia”. The project’s objective was to facilitate access to free legal aid for the Roma communities in six counties; strengthen Roma civil society organisations and the Council of Roma National Minority in the County of Slavonski Brod-Posavina; and design and promote new mechanisms to monitor and oversee the implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities and local action plans.
- The Nansen Dialogue Centre, acting in partnership with the National Roma Forum association, implemented the project “Building Milestones in Human Rights Protection for the Roma Community – Scaling Up the Capacity of CSOs and Public Institutions in Access to Human Rights”. The project's objective was to build the capacity of the National Roma Forum as a network of 32 Roma associations and Roma national minority councils for the protection of human rights at the local and national levels, foster inter-sectoral partnerships between Roma associations and public institutions with focus on the existing strategies and action plans for the Roma community, raise the awareness of and provide support to Roma community members in protection against violations of human rights and facilitate the exchange of good practices and knowledge between Roma associations and public institutions in Croatia and Europe.
- The Open Media Group, acting in partnership with the Roma Association of Zagreb and the County of Zagreb, August Cesarec Primary School in Zagreb, the Cultural Activity Centre and the Business and Trade School in Čakovec, implemented the project “Gelem, Gelem – World4Them”. Its objectives were to establish cooperation between and coordinate the activities of the partnering organisations with a view to promoting the effective protection of human rights and to encourage collaboration between human rights civil society organisations and educational institutions so as to foster better access to human rights for vulnerable groups.
- The Civil Rights Project of Sisak implemented the “Importance of Being Roma” project with a view to providing free legal aid for persons belonging to the Roma national minority, establishing regular communication between the public and civil sectors and the Roma national minority, and supporting local authorities and institutions in improving their checks on the socioeconomic living conditions of Roma people and facilitating access to their services. The project was implemented in partnership with the Roma Culture Club and the Roma Rights of Sisak and the New World association of Luščani.

- The National Roma Council is implementing the project “Fostering the Implementation of the National Strategy for Roma Inclusion at the Local and Regional Levels” in partnership with the Centre for Peace, Legal, Advice and Psychosocial Assistance. The project’s objectives are to improve the capacity of local and regional Roma national minority councils, individual Roma national minority representatives and Roma civil society organisations for their active participation in the implementation of the NSRI at the regional level; foster dialogue and cooperation between local and regional Roma stakeholders and local and regional authorities and relevant institutions on Roma inclusion.
- The Roma Heart Association of Roma Women, acting in partnership with Jagodinjak Primary School, Darda Primary School and the Kašmir Association of Roma Women from Belišće, implemented the project “Education Towards Human Rights”. Its objective was to promote equal opportunities in access to education for preschool and school-age children and to develop cooperation between associations, schools and parents in the integration of Roma children in the educational system.

The Office for Cooperation with NGOs is implementing the co-financing scheme for previously approved EU-funded projects carried out by civil society organisations. In 2015, co-financing was provided for a total of four projects aimed at improving the life and protecting the human rights of the Roma national minority, i.e. projects where Roma associations acted as partners:

- The GTF – Initiative for Sustainable Growth (IPA 2012/Component I): “ROMA-LI: Capacity Building of Local Government and Establishing a Young Roma CSO in the County of Lika-Senj for Improved Access to Human Rights”, co-financed with HRK 26,365.70;
- The Nansen Dialogue Centre (IPA 2012/Component I): “Building Milestones in Human Rights Protection for the Roma Community – Scaling Up the Capacity of CSOs and Public Institutions in Access to Human Rights”, co-financed with HRK 42,853.40;
- The Civil Rights Project of Sisak (IPA 2012/Component I): “The Importance of Being Roma“, co-financed with HRK 55,202.12; and
- The Legal Information Centre (IPA/Component I): “Legal Inclusion and Sustainable Integration of Roma in Croatia”, co-financed with HRK 21,478.65.

Based on an external evaluation made in 2015, the OHRRNM prepared projects that would result in drafting a new implementing document. Of particular importance was a project implemented by the “Living Equality” National Platform from May 2016 to May 2017. The National Platform is closely involved in the implementation of the NSRI and is supposed to provide a dialogue forum for all stakeholders of this strategic document as well as its

implementing Action Plan. The Platform's objective is to facilitate efforts to share examples of good practices at the local, national and European levels with regard to the implementation of policies aimed at the comprehensive integration of Roma population members, with emphasis on the first-hand experiences of Roma people themselves, especially Roma youth and women. In this context, the project kick-off conference was attended by a significant number of representatives from governmental bodies, local and regional governments and the Roma community, including members of Roma national minority councils, as well as Roma and pro-Roma civil society organisations.

In order to achieve the aforementioned goals, the OHRRNM carried out a number of activities including two national conferences (the kick-off conference of the National Roma Platform, held on 12 July 2016 and the closing conference held on 4 April 2017), four regional discussions held in Sisak (22 and 23 September 2016), Čakovec (6 and 7 October 2016), Crikvenica (26 and 27 October 2016) and Beli Manastir (3 and 4 November 2016) and two focus groups with young people and women (7 and 8 December 2016) as well as a meeting of young people and women (6 December 2016).

The events organised as focus groups and work meetings allowed their participants to express their views and experiences concerning different aspects of the integration process. As part of the meetings, documents were produced to map a network of stakeholders and structure the needs of young people and women belonging to the Roma population.

In 2017, two events took place as part of the project, including a focused discussion for young people and women, held in cooperation with civil society organisations on 3 and 4 February 2017 in Zagreb, and the project closing conference held on 4 April 2017 in Zagreb in order to present long- and short-term priorities in each strategic area as defined by the participants of regional and local events and young Roma men and women. Sixteen regional and local project ideas were developed through joint efforts by both Roma minority members and other key stakeholders (representatives from local and regional governments, educational, social and health-care institutions, etc.). The activities involved engagement by a total of 435 participants, of which members of the Roma national minority accounted for 154, including 52 young people and 45 women belonging to the Roma national minority.

The Platform also facilitated efforts to share examples of good practices at the national and European levels through work meetings and regional discussions. The participants were encouraged to engage in activities to network relevant authorities, local and regional governments and Roma national minority councils and representatives and to ensure coordination between the implementing agencies responsible for measures defined in the NSRI and the accompanying AP at the national, local and regional levels. In addition, regional and local priorities were defined, which should eventually lead to the synchronisation

of efforts made by implementing agencies in charge of the measures at the strategic document level.

The project catalysed the process of raising the awareness of and networking the target groups including men and women belonging to the Roma national minority, national, regional and local leaders, private businesses, professional associations, the academic community, authorities for equality issues and international organisations. Efforts were also made to ensure a maximum empowerment of specific target groups, i.e. end programme beneficiaries such as women and young people belonging to the Roma population, and to facilitate their networking with other stakeholders. Some of the documented, but insufficiently known, good practice examples have been presented in a publication entitled *An Overview of Selected Good Practice Examples: Integration of Persons Belonging to the Roma National Minority*.

We should note that even the limited information available at the level of local and regional governments demonstrate the continued support and testify to a sound cooperation with Roma national minority councils and representatives as well as Roma associations. There are frequent initiatives to support national and local events commemorating significant dates, as well as cultural, but also anti-discrimination activities.

The County of Slavonski Brod-Posavina reported that, as part of its efforts to implement the measure “Cooperation with national minority councils and Roma national minority civil society organisations”, the City of Slavonski Brod adopted its 2017-2020 Roma Action Plan. The Action Plan constitutes a fundamental planning document for the implementation of the NSRI in the area of Slavonski Brod. The Plan’s objectives and measures target key areas of Roma inclusion in the city, all with a view to long-term improvements in the situation of its citizens of Roma nationality.

The OHRRNM coordinated the preparation of the 2019-2020 Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Strategy for Roma Inclusion for the period from 2013 to 2020 (hereinafter: Action Plan). As the Action Plan was being drafted, the OHRRNM undertook a series of activities to engage all stakeholders at all levels, especially persons belonging to the Roma national minority, in the process of defining the requirements, priorities and objectives of the draft Action Plan, including a number of public consultations (both regional and national), workshops and focus groups held with key stakeholders.

The OHRRNM completed preparations for the implementation of the project on “Creating Conditions for Effective Implementation of Policies Aimed at National Minorities”, financed from the European Social Fund to a total value of more than HRK 10 million. The project activities, focused solely on improvements in the situation of persons belonging to the Roma national minority, have been incorporated the draft Action Plan as well as the NSRI.

During the course of 2017, governmental bodies and other implementing agencies undertook measures and activities with a view to implementing the NSRI in the following strategic areas: education, employment and economic inclusion, health care, social welfare, physical planning, housing and environmental protection, inclusion in social and cultural life, status resolution, combating discrimination and assistance in exercising rights, improvements in statistics collection, and alignment of programmes with international standards and ratified treaties in the field of human and minority rights.

In the central budget of the Republic of Croatia – specifically, under the budget headings of the responsible bodies and agencies in charge of implementing measures – a total of HRK 25,607,617.33 was expended for the implementation of the NSRI in 2017, which means that the trend of increasing budget allocations continued. To these allocations we should also add the funds of those government administration bodies whose budgets do not provide for activities aimed specifically at the implementation of the NSRI, but they do implement its measures as part of their regular activities, such as the Ministry of Demography, the Family, Youth and Social Policy, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Public Administration, the Ministry of Justice, etc., financing from European Union funds (IPA programmes, ESI funds, the FEAD, etc.) and other donors, as well as allocations made at the level of local and regional governments.

In the field of education, the Ministry of Science and Education (MSE) continued with the implementation of relevant activities in 2017, broadening the scope of measures in certain areas. The MSE makes continued efforts to accomplish the defined tasks and measures, taking account of the complexity and comprehensiveness of the goals set to enhance the education of persons belonging to the Roma national minority, including early childhood education as well as primary, secondary and university education and adult education. All activities undertaken in 2017 relied on the social inclusion policy, which means ensuring conditions for the full integration of children, adolescents and adults in keeping with their needs and capabilities.

Children belonging to the Roma national minority, as well as any other child, have the right to education, health care, life in the family environment and conditions enabling them to develop and thrive, the right to use their language, and the right to their cultural identity. The vulnerability of children and families belonging to the Roma national minority has also been recognised in the recent national strategies and recommendations from international documents. All measures and activities implemented in the previous period were aimed at improving access to quality education, including education and care provided in early childhood and during primary, secondary and university education, with special focus on eliminating potential segregation in schools, preventing early school leaving and ensuring easier transition from school to employment.

The MSE maintains and upgrades its database on the Roma national minority once a year, taking into account its data as of the end of the preceding academic year and those as of the beginning of the current academic year. The database on the education of persons belonging to the Roma national minority relies on figures supplied by government administration offices of each county and the City of Zagreb's Education office.

Following a substantial increase in the number of children for whom inclusion in preschool and pre-primary education programmes was ensured in order to bridge the gap between their socioeconomic situation and possibility of successful integration during their further education, when at the beginning of the 2016/2017 academic year there were 1,118 (600m/518f) such children, the number of children included in early preschool education programmes at the beginning of the 2017/2018 academic year totalled 1,020 (535m/485f) according to the figures supplied. While there are no official data, the assumption is that the reasons for a decreased number of children included in these programmes lie in a decrease in the overall number of Roma children falling within the relevant generation groups, rather than their lower inclusion.

The primary education system also shows further decrease in the number of students as compared to the previous academic year. Specifically, there were 5,263 (2,640m/2,623f) children in the primary education system at the beginning of the academic year 2016/2017, whereas at the beginning of the 2018/2019 academic year their number dropped to 5,134 (2,589m/2,545f). A significant growing trend is evident in the number of children using extended-day programmes: at the beginning of the 2016/2017 academic year there were 282 (130m/152f) such students, whereas their number at the beginning of the 2017/2018 academic year increased to 357 (172m/185f). Pursuant to Article 43 of the Primary and Secondary Education Act, extended-day services also entail special Croatian language learning assistance, which was ensured in the 2016/2017 academic year as well. Specifically, 403 (196m/207f) students received special Croatian language learning assistance at the beginning of the 2016/2017 academic year, while 336 (166m/170f) students received it at the beginning of the 2017/2018 academic year.

The number of classes composed solely of students belonging to the Roma national minority has slightly decreased: there were 61 such classes at the start of the 2016/2017 academic year compared to 60 at the beginning of the 2017/2018 academic year. Out of this total of 60 Roma classes, 1 was in the County of Primorje-Gorski Kotar, 1 in the County of Koprivnica-Križevci, 2 were in the County of Slavonski Brod-Posavina, 5 in the County of Varaždin and 51 in the County of Međimurje (where several primary schools stand out for their high shares of Roma population: PS Kuršanec with 71.6%, PS Dr. Ivan Novak of Macinec with 80.4%, PS Tomaš Goričanec of Mala Subotica with 42% (including its BS Držimurec Strelec with

100%), PS Vladimir Nazor of Pribislavec with 61.2%). The decline in the number of classes composed solely of students belonging to the Roma national minority is contingent upon the network of schools and enrolment areas where classes are composed exclusively of Roma students in order to establish a balance in the number of Roma students in relation to other pupils.

The MSE also secures funding for the implementation of outdoor/out-of-classroom education programmes and co-finances graduation trips. These activities are indeed important because they are prerequisite to integration as well as to more successful completion of primary education. The MSE also finances the work of Roma assistants who, together with teachers, help students write their homework during extended-day hours and master their school assignments. In 2017, the central budget provided for a total of HRK 3,179,616.40 spent on extended-day programmes, salaries of Roma assistants, graduation trips, outdoor/out-of-classroom education activities and dormitory accommodation, that is, as much as 63.8 per cent more than in 2016.

Local and regional governments also reported about the support they provided, either by procuring textbooks (Cestica and Magadenovac Municipalities) or by covering transportation costs. For instance, the County of Međimurje spent HRK 245,960.80 on the transportation of 1,622 Roma students in 2017. In default of any detailed data on the use of ESIF funds for the purposes of persons belonging to the Roma national minority at the local level, it would be illustrative to highlight a report from the County of Međimurje which used FEAD funds in order to co-finance meals for 900 Roma students to a total of HRK 671,642.74, implementing the “School Meals for All” project for the second year in a row (i.e. in the academic years 2016/2017 and 2017/2018). The project is implemented in partnership with 23 primary schools in the County’s jurisdiction and caters to approximately 1,500 students, its objective being to alleviate the gravest forms of child poverty by providing non-financial assistance for children in poverty or at risk of poverty, specifically, by ensuring regular meals in school cafeterias.

Furthermore, the County of Međimurje is implementing the Međimurje County Equal Opportunities School project. Its goal is to integrate students with difficulties in regular education programmes with the help of teaching assistants and, thus, improve their academic achievements, offer them better opportunities for success and enhance their emotional functioning. The project is financed from the European Social Fund and covers 60 beneficiaries in primary and secondary schools, including 10 students belonging to the Roma national minority. A total of HRK 2,132,487.99 was spent for that purpose in 2017.

2016 saw a continued upward trend in the number of students included in the secondary education system. However, their number slightly declined in 2017, in keeping with overall

population trends. Accordingly, there were 820 (429m/390f) students at the start of the 2016/2017 academic year, whereas their number at the beginning of the 2017/2018 academic year declined to 805 (446m/359f). There is a visible increase in the number of students enrolled in the first grades of three-year secondary school programmes, but the number of students who continued their education under such programmes at the beginning of the 2017/2018 academic year was much higher (540 (330m/210f)) than that of students in four-year programmes (144 (40m/104f)). Noteworthy also are the measures to create conditions for successful schooling: the award of secondary education scholarships and the provision of accommodation in student dormitories are vital activities which enhance secondary school enrolment rates and attendance levels. In 2017, the number of scholarships rose to 689 (373m/316f), for which the MSE spent HRK 3,488,411.44 or 18% per cent more than a year earlier.

In addition to secondary education scholarships, the National Foundation for the Support of Student Living Standards was also used as a vehicle to award university scholarships. Their number slightly increased in 2017, with a total of HRK 190,000.00 being spent on scholarships for 19 (11m/8f) university students. There are no data available on scholarships awarded to university students belonging to the Roma national minority from other sources, e.g. local and regional governments, foundations, etc.

For adults belonging to the Roma national minority, the MSE secures funding for the implementation of literacy programmes, that is, their completion of secondary education and their training for their first occupation with a view to developing competences required to achieve competitiveness in the labour market. In 2017, such programmes were attended by more participants than in 2016, specifically, a total of 382 participants of whom 366 attended the literacy programmes, while 16 participated in the training programme for their first occupation. A total of HRK 794,000.00 was spent for that purpose.

In addition to the foregoing, the MSE provided co-financing to mark the International Romani Language Day and to commemorate International Roma Genocide Remembrance Day/Samudaripen. Furthermore, in 2017 it also co-financed the celebration of International Romani Day with a total of HRK 40,000.00.

Major challenges are still seen in ensuring the acquisition of knowledge and skills required to complete primary education in order to continue with schooling, developing a network of schools and enrolment areas and striking a balance in the number of Roma student in relation to other pupils, including the overall infrastructure which relies on education as well as further motivation for inclusion in secondary education, especially four-year programmes, while promoting the continuation and completion of schooling.

Therefore, as part of its efforts to implement the Operational Programme “Efficient Human Resources 2014-2020 (ESF)” in 2017, the MSE prepared a call for proposals for Programming, Professional and Financial Support for the Education of Children and Students Belonging to the Roma National Minority, a project worth HRK 15,300,000.00. For more information, see: <https://strukturnifondovi.hr/natjecaji/programska-strucna-financijska-potpورا-obrazovanju-djece-ucenika-pripadnika-romske-nacionalne-manjine/>.

The objective of this Call is to provide support for the inclusion of children/students belonging to the Roma national minority in the educational system so as to create conditions for improving their academic achievements and ensuring their more successful social integration. By implementing different activities aimed at including more Roma students in quality extended-day programmes in their schools and organising the transportation of Roma children from their homes to kindergartens/schools delivering pre-primary education programmes, conditions will be created to improve their academic achievements and ensure their more successful social integration.

The inclusion of Roma children and students in extended-day and pre-primary school programmes is crucial for breaking the intergenerational cycle of social exclusions and the best tool for preventing the disadvantaged position of Roma children at the outset of their primary education. The main activities to be financed under the described project include extended-day programmes and organising the transportation of Roma children from their homes to kindergartens/schools delivering pre-primary education programmes and integrated preschool education programmes with the support of and under the supervisor of adults. The plan is also to finance other potential activities, such as organising supplementary and remedial classes and extracurricular activities, organising summer camps and/or out-of-school activities aimed at the social integration of Roma students, providing training for educators/teachers and professional staff members to raise the quality and efficiency of education for Roma students, and procuring equipment and didactic tools.

In 2017, a notable increase in the outreach of certain measures could be observed, including the number of scholarship recipients in both secondary and higher education, the number of participants in the literacy programme and the training programme for the first occupation, as well as the increased inclusion of children in activities such as extended-day programmes, graduation trips, outdoor/out-of-classroom education programmes and dormitory accommodation.

Despite the observed advances, the progress made in strengthening the support system and the mechanism set up to ensure access to both preschool and primary education programmes, the key challenge is still seen in creating conditions for a genuine integration of children, their readiness for school, the acquisition of knowledge and skills required to continue with and

complete education and striking a balance in the number of Roma students in relation to other pupils. Through a continued implementation of its dedicated activities, the MSE will continue to make further efforts to ensure quality and inclusive education for children belonging to the Roma national minority, taking into account the complexity and comprehensiveness of all resources as well as the engagement of all stakeholders, which is essential for the achievement of each the defined objectives.

In the area of employment and economic inclusion, the Croatian Employment Service (CES) estimates that a total of 4,777 persons belonging to the Roma national minority were registered as of the end of December 2016, with a total of 4,206 persons being registered as of the end of December 2017. This apparent decline in the number of registered unemployment is also reflected in data showing an increase in the number of persons included in the process of empowerment for labour market inclusion (information sharing initiatives, public forums, individual counselling, group counselling on the acquisition of job-seeking skills, etc.). Thus, a total of 5,202 (2,877m/2,325f) persons were included in this process in u 2016, with their number reaching a total of 6,602 (3,662m/2,940f) in 2017. An upward trend in inclusion has also been noted when it comes group activities organised to share information on self-employment as well as counselling on starting a business, where a total of 24 (16m/8f) persons were included in 2016, with their number rising to 34 (20m/14f) in 2017.

A high growth rate (14.2%) has also been reported for measures to foster employment: 655 (408m/247f) persons belonging to the Roma national minority found employment in 2016, with their number reaching a total of 748 (501m/247f) in 2017. Employment was co-financed for 16 (13m/3f) persons belonging to the Roma national minority in 2016, and for 21 (20m/1f) such persons in 2017. Growth has not been reported for the “Public Works” measure, where 628 (387m/241f) persons belonging to the Roma national minority were hired in 2016, with their number declining to a total of 626 (386m/240f) in 2017. In 2017, a total of three (1m/2f) persons were included in the measure “On-the-Job Training without Employment Contract” for young persons belonging to the Roma national minority who completed four-year secondary education and higher education. Within the 2017 initiative to co-finance the self-employment of persons belonging to the Roma national minority, self-employment support was provided for four (2m/2f) persons. A total of 92 (75m/17f) persons belonging to the Roma national minority were included in the “Education” measure in 2017.

The total number of vacancies announced for CES-registered jobs increased, which provided new employment opportunities for unemployed persons belonging to the Roma national minority. The number of persons belonging to the Roma national minority who found jobs in the open labour market (i.e. without being included in employment incentive measures) totalled 566 (386m/180f) in 2016, with a total of 788 (554m/234f) being employed in 2017, which is an increase by nearly 40 per cent.

To enhance their employability and help them make the right choice regarding their further career development, the CES offers the vocational guidance service for senior primary school students. It includes the provision of vocational information and vocational counselling advice delivered in collaboration with schools and parents. In 2017, a total of 217 Roma students received vocational information, while 192 benefited from vocational counselling.

An increase has also been reported for the number of unemployed persons included in the professional counselling activity: there were a total of 754 such persons in 2016, while their number in 2017 totalled 812. The CES carries out activities aimed at creating a positive climate among employers in order to enhance the employment of ethnic Roma, which has led to an increased number of Roma people hired in the open labour market (i.e. without being included in employment incentive measures). In 2017, there were a total of 158 visits to employers made to identify opportunities for the employment of persons belonging to the Roma national minority.

In order to inform employers and other labour market stakeholders and raise their awareness of opportunities for the inclusion of persons belonging to the Roma national minority in active employment and self-employment policy measures, the regional CES offices promote employment and self-employment measures by organising round tables and job fairs. From January to December 2017, 113 events were held to promote employment and self-employment measures for persons belonging to the Roma national minority, involving participation by 181 representatives of Roma organisations and employers.

A challenge was posed by difficulties in collecting accurate statistics as the CES does not keep unemployment data segregated by nationality, but makes indirect estimates of the number of unemployed members of the Roma national minority, according to the places of residence from which people register to be entered in its unemployment records, the certificates they seek to qualify for their social welfare benefits and their knowledge of the Romani or Bayash Romani language. A drawback in maintaining unemployment data for persons belonging to the Roma national minority is in that they often declare their ethnicity in different ways. Furthermore, conditions have not been created to collect figures for a series of impact indicators at the level of specific activities, so that the system currently does not allow the substantiation of indicators with data because they are unavailable.

Taking into account the specific needs of its customers, the CES is implementing a set of active employment policy measures targeted at labour market-disadvantaged persons. Accordingly, a substantial increase has been made in funding allocated to implement measures fostering employment among unemployed members of the Roma national minority as part of NSRI implementation, with a total of HRK 8,938,507.51 HRK being spent in 2017.

According to the figures from the records of the Ministry of Public Administration as of 31 December 2017, there was a total of 13,744 civil servants and employees working the administrative bodies of local and regional governments, 455 or 3.31 per cent of whom were persons belonging to one of the 22 national minorities, 252 or 1.83 per cent were of unstated national identity, while six or 0.042 per cent of servants and employees declared themselves Muslims. Among the 455 civil servants and employees belonging to national minorities, there was one (1) person belonging to the Roma national minority according to the data as of 31 December 2017.

As of 31 December 2017, governmental administrative bodies (GAB) – including ministries, central government offices, governmental administrative organisations and governmental administrative offices at the county level – employed 49,602 civil servants and employees, 658 or 3.34 per cent of whom were persons belonging to national minorities. The reported number of persons belonging to national minority members includes eight ethnic Roma. Given such a low percentage, we should note that, in the employment process for admission to the civil service, priority is accorded to persons belonging to national minorities, all other conditions being equal, as stipulated in the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities. Candidates are instructed on the possibility of invoking their entitlement to priority in the very text of the vacancy announcement. The Ministry of Public Administration also shares information on this entitlement in its responses to queries received by e-mail or telephone, as well as via its website. Governmental authorities regularly enter data on all national minority members who wish to declare themselves as such in the Public Sector Staff Register. However, due to the economic situation in the Republic of Croatia, opportunities for employment in GABs were generally limited over the past few years, which also affected employment opportunities for persons belonging to national minorities. As a result, the 2016 Decision Banning New Employment of Civil Servants and Employees in Government Administration Bodies, Staff Services and Offices of the Government of the Republic of Croatia (as published in *Narodne novine*, official journal of the RoC, nos. 70/16 and 74/17) still remains in force.

Relevant activities are also reported by certain government administration bodies. For instance, the Ministry of the Interior reported on activities aimed at the education and employment of persons belonging to the Roma national minority, highlighting the need to improve the educational structure of a part of the Roma population, encourage minority members to declare their national identity and instruct them on their right to invoke their national identity as grounds for priority in employment.

In the area of health care, one of the primary NSRI objectives is to improve the health of the Roma population in the Republic of Croatia and reduce the inequality and gap between the

health status of Roma people and that of the rest of the population by ensuring the same level of quality and accessibility of health care through involvement and coordinated action by all bodies and organisations at all levels of Croatian society, whose activities are aimed at providing health-care services and assuring the quality of life in the community.

All Roma people with Croatian citizenship are entitled to health-care in conformity with the provisions of the Health Care Act and the Mandatory Health Insurance Act, in the same manner and under the same conditions as any other citizen of the Republic of Croatia. The Croatian Health Insurance Institute, acting within the scope of its authority, manages mandatory health insurance for its insurees, including all of their rights and obligations under the mandatory health insurance scheme, which relies on the principles of reciprocity, solidarity and equality. For those Roma people whose citizenship has not been regulated, the conditions and modalities for receiving health care are governed by the Act on Mandatory Health Insurance and Health-Care for Aliens in the Republic of Croatia.

Due to a high unemployment rate, a very limited number of working-age Roma people are actively insured. A certain share of Roma people without health insurance receive health-care through the counties where they reside, i.e. against their budgets, in line with the provisions of the Mandatory Health Insurance Act and pursuant to the Ordinance on the Criteria and Procedure to Determine Incapacity for Independent Life and Work and the Lack of Means of Subsistence for Persons Residing in the Republic of Croatia without Receiving Health Care on Other Grounds.

In the Republic of Croatia, public health services, which include the epidemiology of communicable diseases and chronic non-communicable diseases, public health promotion, health education, including health promotion and disease prevention, health ecology, microbiology, school health care, mental health and addiction prevention, are provided by the Croatian Public Health Institute and county public health institutes.

To achieve the fundamental purpose of public health, i.e. protecting and improving the health of the entire population – it is crucial to establish sound cooperation, coordination and partnership between stakeholders at the national, regional and local levels, where the network of public health institutes, headed by the Croatian Public Health Institute, plays a pivotal role. In the international context, collaboration takes place with the World Health Organisation and all other relevant international and European bodies, institutions and organisations.

Achieving the fundamental purpose of public health requires general acceptance of the “health for all” concept, the need to reduce inequalities in health and embed health in all policies and sectors, and the need to see investment in health as the most profitable investment in the society’s growth and development. It was impossible to establish the exact

data on the health status and health protection of Roma because data maintained on health and other data related to the health-care system, as well as those for other systems, are not and segregated by citizens' ethnic background. Accordingly, neither the Croatian Public Health Institute nor the Croatian Health Insurance Institute gather or process health statistics segregated by national or ethnic identity, which means that they have no available data on the health protection of Roma people.

Recognising the cultural, linguistic and social specifics of the Roma national minority, which also bear on their use of health care services, continued efforts are made to address disease prevention among the Roma population in line with health care priorities and capacity. In their capacity as regional governments, the counties – acting through their Public Health Institutes and in cooperation with sanitary inspection departments and local governments, undertake numerous measure to improve the quality of living and health protection for the Roma population, especially children. County Public Health Institutes are health institutions which provide public health services within the territories of their counties, including the epidemiology of containable and other communicable diseases, the epidemiology of chronic non-communicable diseases, ensuring safe water, food and air, immunisation, sanitation, health statistics and health education. Since many Roma settlements are not urbanised in that they lack appropriate municipal infrastructure (water supply, waste removal, housing hygiene, pest control, etc.), there are frequent initiatives for mandatory precautionary disinfection, disinsection and deratisation, waste removal, control of water supply and other dwelling conditions, epidemiological surveillance and other interventions. In their reports, local governments often highlight precisely the efforts made to develop settlements and the measures taken to ensure veterinary hygiene.

Home health nursing, a key element in providing health care for the Roma national community, is delivered out on a continued basis as part of services offered by community health centres, constituting a crucial and essential activity in the areas of Roma settlements. Pursuant to its agreement with the Croatian Health Insurance Institute, each home health nursing service is required to provide for the entire population in its agreed coverage area, regardless of the insurance status of its customers. Unfortunately, in spite of the efforts to implement hygienic and sanitary measures in Roma settlements and schools and deliver health education, positive effects often fail to materialise because adequate hygienic measures cannot be fully implemented in non-urbanised Roma settlements.

Given the fact that, as a result of the aforementioned specifics, many Roma people fail to use their guaranteed rights to health protection under the existing health care system, a permanent solution for difficulties encountered by the Roma would be their inclusion in the existing health care system.

Furthermore, in the 2017 local elections, persons belonging to the Roma minority were entitled to nominate and elect their candidates for two deputy chief executives in two municipalities – Orehovica and Pribislavec – where they were indeed elected, which means that the representation of the Roma national minority in the executive bodies of local governments was fully achieved.

Out of the total number of the elected Roma national minority councils and representatives, 27 Roma national minority councils and seven Roma national minority representatives were entered in the Register of National Minority Councils and Their Coordinating Bodies and National Minority Representatives as of the end 2017.

In the period from 1 February 2016 to 1 August 2017, as part of Component I of the IPA 2012-funded project “Support for National Minorities at the Local Level”, the OHRRNM implemented the project “Support to National Minority Councils at the Local Level”. The project’s goals was to ensure a comprehensive and effective achievement of human rights and improve active and full participation by national minorities in the economic, cultural and social life of Croatia’s society. The Project’s purpose was to ensure conditions for active participation by national minority councils in monitoring the implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities and developing their own local communities in the territory of the Republic of Croatia. The project kick-off conference was held on 31 March 2016. The project’s value was € 567,489.8, of which 90 per cent was financed from EU funds, with, 10 per cent being provided through national co-financing under the OHRRNM budget heading (€ 56,748.93).

The main project activities included the conduct of a gap analysis of the capacity and needs of national minority councils and representatives for monitoring the implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities and the development of tools to increase efficiency in the work of national minority councils and representatives, including the creation of web-interfaces and handbooks. The project included train-the-trainer workshops for national minority councils and representative, with focus on their networking with other key local development stakeholders in five regional centres.

The results of this comprehensive study are presented in the Gap Analysis of the capacity and needs of national minority councils from the perspective of national minority councils and representatives, local and regional governmental representatives and civil society organisation representatives themselves and consolidated in the publication “Final Synthesis of the Integrated Gap Analysis Results”,⁴ with the profile of national minority councils and

⁴ Available on the OHRRNM website:

<https://pravamanjina.gov.hr/UserDocsImages/dokumenti/Rezultai%20Gap%20analize.pdf>.

representatives being based on statistically significant differences and variances in the subsample of the surveyed aggregate.⁵ The Roma national minority ranks third by the number of councils and representatives, but with a relatively weak representation of women. The highest number of respondents from younger age groups has been identified in the councils and among the representatives of the Roma national minority (up to 30 yrs. – 16%), but they also show the highest share of persons with a lower educational background (47%). Furthermore, they are formally less equipped and trained for the performance of advisory function.

Among other things, the societal environment is the major hindrance to the implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities in the opinion of Roma national minority councils and representatives, who are also less inclined to confirm their acceptance by their local governments. On the other hand, the contribution of external actors (other non-profit and civil society organisations, the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities, the OHRNM, the Ombudsman's Office and international organisations) has received the highest rates precisely from persons belonging to the Roma.

Persons belonging to the Roma national minority have a much lower rate of use of computers and e-mail in the operations of their national minority councils and representatives and, in addition, have the lowest access to official computers and reimbursement of costs. The level of their qualifications has been found to constitute a significant predictor of activity and efficiency in the performance of advisory function by the Roma national minority councils and representatives. Accordingly, the higher the level of formal qualifications among the Roma national minority councils and representatives, the more active and efficient they are in the performance of their advisory function. We should also note that the study has confirmed the assumption that the efficient implementation and application of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities requires not only formal qualifications and activity on the part of minority councils and representatives, but also readiness for cooperation with national minority councils and representatives on the part local and regional governments.

During the course of the project, 10 three-day regional training workshops were also held for national minority councils and individual minority representatives to build their capacity to monitor the implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities and to enhance their advisory role and networking with other key local development stakeholders (such as local action groups and organisations promoting sustainable growth). In order to

⁵ The survey involved participation by a total of 356 respondents (91 national minority representatives, 152 national minority councils, 64 local and regional self-government units and 49 associations, LAGs and other organisations engaged in local development and/or national minority rights). Out of the total of 243 national minority councils and representatives, 19 Roma national minority councils and representatives participated in the survey.

strengthen this role, efforts were made to develop the *Handbook for National Minority Councils and Representatives*, which was distributed to 440 recipients within the Republic of Croatia (national minority councils and representatives, individual representatives and their coordinating bodies, closing conference participants, etc.) and is also available on the OHHRN website.⁶

Five regional (closing) conferences took place in the course of July 2017 (4 July in Osijek, 5 July in Bjelovar, 6 July in Zagreb, 11 July in Rijeka and 13. July in Zadar) in order to present the results of the project and encourage the discussion thereof with the relevant stakeholders (national minority councils and representatives, L/RSGU bodies and other organisations and academic community members).

Finally, in order to include the perspective of national minority councils and representatives in the system for monitoring the implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities at the national level, the web portal <https://pravanacionalnihmanjina.hr/> was created to enable national minority councils and representatives to report on the implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities in the forthcoming period the way they see it.

⁶ Handbook for National Minority Councils and Representatives is available at:
<https://pravamanjina.gov.hr/UserDocsImages/dokumenti/Priru%C4%8Dnik%20za%20vije%C4%87a%20i%20predstavnike%20nacionalnih%20analiza.pdf>

Revision and implementation of the National Strategy for Roma Inclusion from 2013 to 2020

The OHRRNM coordinated the preparation of the Action Plan. As the Action Plan was being drafted, the OHRRNM undertook a series of activities to engage all stakeholders at all levels, especially persons belonging to the Roma national minority, in the process of defining the requirements, priorities and objectives of the draft Action Plan, including a number of public consultations (both regional and national), workshops and focus groups held with key stakeholders.

In the late 2014, the OHRRNM commissioned an external evaluation of the NSRI and its accompanying Action Plan for the 2013-2015 period. The findings of the external evaluation were presented at the verification workshop organised by the OHRRNM and the UNDP and the 7th session of the Roma Inclusion Commission's Working Group in 2015. In furtherance of the findings of the external evaluation of the NSRI and its accompanying Action Plan, the OHRRNM prepared four draft versions in the period from 2015 to 2017 and, following the adoption of the Operational Programme for National Minorities in October 2017, central governmental administrative bodies were asked to supplement the draft Action Plan. After the 2nd session of the Working Group of the Commission on Monitoring the Implementation of the National Strategy for Roma Inclusion in February 2018, additional consultations were held with the relevant authorities and Roma national minority representatives. As a result, the draft Action Plan was further reinforced by references to the section of the Operational Programme for the Roma National Minority where the first measure provided precisely for the revision and implementation of the NSRI and enhancing the work of the Commission on Monitoring the Implementation of the National Strategy, with special focus on the issues of education, social integration, employment and housing.

The aforementioned draft Action Plan was prepared for submission to public consultation and, once the process is completed, it will be moved into the regular procedure before the Croatian Government for its adoption. In the course of 2018, the OHRRNM completed preparations for the implementation of the project on "Creating Conditions for Effective Implementation of Policies Aimed at National Minorities", financed from the European Social Fund to a total value of over HRK 10 million. The project activities, focused solely on improvements in the situation of persons belonging to the Roma national minority, have been incorporated the draft Action Plan as well as the NSRI.

The Croatian Government established the Commission for Monitoring Implementation of the National Strategy for Roma Inclusion from 2013 to 2020 to ensure follow up on the implementation of all operational aspects of the NSRI.

The Commission is chaired by one of Croatia's deputy prime ministers, its deputy chairperson is the Roma national minority member of the Croatian Parliament, while its members have been appointed from among the representatives of the relevant government authorities and the representatives of the Roma national minority in the Republic of Croatia. The Commission's tasks are to: systematically monitor and coordinate the implementation of the NSRI; propose measure to enhance the implementation of the NSRI and the Action Plan; prepare recommendations, opinions, expert explanations and reports as well as guidelines regarding the implementation of the NSRI; propose amendments to the NSRI; monitor the allocation and spending of funds for the implementation of the NSRI, which are appropriated under the central budget; and allocate funding aimed at addressing problems and challenges in the life of persons belonging to the Roma national minority.

In the reporting period under review, Commission for Monitoring Implementation of the National Strategy for Roma Inclusion allocated a total of HRK 833,185.73 to improve living conditions for persons belonging to the Roma national minority.

National Plan to Combat Discrimination for the 2017-2022 period and the Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Plan to Combat Discrimination for the 2017-2019 period

On 1 December 2017, the Government of the Republic of Croatia adopted the National Plan to Combat Discrimination for the 2017-2022 Period, as a strategic document which, based on situation analysis, sets priorities and puts forth objectives towards focusing efforts on building an integral system for protection against discrimination in the Republic of Croatia. The Government of the Republic of Croatia also adopted an implementing document, namely, the Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Plan to Combat Discrimination for the 2017-2019 period, which also contains a number of activities aimed at combating hate speech, violence, racism and discrimination in all areas of social life, including, in particular:

Measure 1.5: Organise expert seminars on the Criminal Code provisions on hate crimes and hate speech for judges, attorneys-at-law, public prosecutors, police officers and representatives of civil society organisations, especially with regard to hate crimes against national minority members and those motivated by sexual orientation – Implementing Agency: OHRRNM;

Measure 1.6: Organise round tables on discrimination, hate crimes and hate speech – Implementing Agency: OHRRNM;

Measure 1.7: Enhance the system for collecting hate crime and hate speech data – Implementing Agency: OHRRNM;

Measure 1.8: Monitor the application of the Code of Conduct on Countering Illegal Hate Speech Online). – Implementing Agency: OHRRNM;

Measure 2.1: Launch campaigns aimed at combating discrimination and hate crimes – Implementing Agency: OHRRNM;

Measure 4.3: Publish annual data on hate crime cases – Implementing Agency: OHRRNM;

Measure 4.4: Ensure that records are maintained on support provided to hate crime victims – Implementing Agency: Ministry of Justice;

Measure 1.1: Educate systematically journalists and editors as well as all other professional groups engaged in the production of media content about discrimination and how to combat discrimination in media content – Implementing Agency: Croatian Radio-Television;

Measure 1.2: Encourage the preparation of a self-regulation document/guidelines for the coverage of sports events in situations involving hate speech – Implementing Agency: Agency for Electronic Media;

Objective 3: Combating discriminatory practices and hate speech in sports – Impact indicator: decreased hate speech at sports events;

Measure 3.1: Make a recommendation for including topics about the prohibition of discrimination in education and training programmes for coaches, managers and other professionals in the sports sector;

Measure 3.3: Implement campaigns against hate speech in sports – Implementing Agency: Central State Office for Sports.

When it comes to hate crimes, we should note that one of the recommendations made to the Republic of Croatia under Chapter 23 (Judiciary and Fundamental Rights) of the negotiation process for accession to the European Union was to establish a track record of its implementation of relevant legislation in cases of discrimination and hate crimes. A Working Group for Monitoring Hate Crimes was set up to coordinate competent authorities in the data collection process, review and monitor the implementation of anti-discrimination legislation and analyse the need for legislative amendments. There are ongoing efforts to form an expert body that will work on the preparation of a bill to counter hate speech and fake news spread online.

In 2017 and 2018, the OHRRNM ran a campaign against hate crimes and hate speech, as part of which it printed stickers with verses from the poem “People are People Everywhere”,

inscribed in the picture of a tree crown in response to stickers which appeared in February 2017, depicting men hanging from a tree, with an inscription reading “Serbian Family Tree”. The campaign was inaugurated as part of the event organised to mark International Human Rights Day in 2017 (<https://ljudskaprava.gov.hr/vijesti/obiljezen-medjunarodni-dan-ljudskih-prava-10-prosinac/772>).

Strengthening interethnic tolerance is always in the focus of activities launched as part of traditional events organised by the OHHRNM on the occasion of International Human Rights Day. Given the importance of political accountability in the context of interethnic relations, the OHHRNM used last year’s observance of International Human Rights Day and the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights to present its campaign, including recommendations for combating hate speech on the political scene, appealing to all politicians to condemn any hate speech (<https://ljudskaprava.gov.hr/vijesti/odrzan-javni-skup-na-temu-govor-mrznje-u-javnom-prostoru-povodom-obiljezavanja-medjunarodnog-dana-ljudskih-prava/8488>).

From the Report of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

In the period from 2014 to 2018, the Ministry proceeded with its efforts to address key challenges in protecting the rights of national minorities at the foreign policy level. In 2018, following consultations at the national level, it set the effective protection of the rights of national minorities and vulnerable groups as one of the priorities of the Croatian chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (May – November 2018). For the Croatian chairmanship, see page 3.

Furthermore, the Ministry is undertaking continued efforts to foster and promote international human rights standards and their application, including the protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. Accordingly, its representatives take an active part in ensuring their implementation. In addition, the efforts to regulate this area are always in the focus Croatia’s bilateral relations with other countries, in particular neighbouring states.

Through its collaboration with international bodies, the Ministry regularly coordinates the preparation of national reports on the activities undertaken to achieve the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. In 2018, it completed the process of coordinating the preparation of the Universal Period Review Mid-Term Report (MTR) to be submitted to the Human Rights Council. The MTR provides for the implementation of a number of recommendations in the field of promoting and protecting the rights of national minorities.

Furthermore, through the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Croatia to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, whose representatives take an active part in the meetings of Council of

Europe working bodies which discuss and make concerning the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, the Ministry follows up and reports on the current issues. As a result of the foregoing, Croatia supported the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC), which was formally launched during a ceremony in Berlin on 8 June 2017. In 2018, the Ministry continued to follow up on the activities and decisions related to the ERIAC, especially its status and commencement of operations as a non-profit organisation, as well as to monitor the situation in Ukraine, i.e. the cases of violence against Roma.

In 2018, the Council of Europe its Report on Implementing the Thematic Action Plan on the Inclusion of Roma and Travellers (2016-2019), including an overview of the state of implementation from April 2017 to April 2018. With regard to Croatia, the Report contains critical comments on cases of trafficking in Roma children for the purposes of forced begging as well as early/forced marriage of Roma girls and the increased school drop-out rate, but it also acknowledges positive steps such as the HELP project launched to fight racism and xenophobia, training workshops held in November 2017 for young Roma in order to build their skills and competences for self-organisation and participation in the society (the OHRRNM and the Croatian Youth Network).

As part of the CoE's regular programme, the 5th meeting of the Council of Europe Dialogue with Roma and Traveller Civil Society was held on 20 and 21 June 2018 with a view to: (a) strengthening and improving visibility in political and public activities; b) fighting Roma and Traveller marginalisation, isolation and discrimination; and (c) increasing the capacity of Roma and Traveller CSOs to identify strategies and good practices. In the context of Croatia's chairmanship, the OHRRNM representatives presented the chairmanship priorities and the OHRRNM's contribution and reported on the participation of persons belonging to the Roma national minority in political and social life.

Furthermore, the Ministry takes an active part in the efforts of the Organisation of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and, at the regular annual Human Dimension Implementation Meetings (HIDIM) held in Warsaw, presents the progress made and the alignment of national legislation with different EU policies in the field of promoting and protecting the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. In 2017, the Ministry reported extensively on the progress made, including the adoption of the Government's Operational Plan for the Protection of National Minorities from 2017 to 2020, which contains a series of measures for the effective protection of national minorities and fight against hate crimes which, in a number of European states, strike hardest at persons belonging to national minorities. The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Croatia to the OSCE, UN and IOs follows the efforts made by the OSCE and serves as a vehicle to supply regular responses to OSCE questionnaires (e.g. on Roma and Sinti inclusion in public and political life). Similarly, the Mission participated in the HDIMs, including the meeting held in April 2018 to address

the issue of education among Roma and Sinti girls, as well as the meeting organised in December to mark the 15th anniversary of the adoption of the OSCE Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti, with focus on enhancing their participation in private and public life.

With regard to the efforts made by the EU, the Ministry provides continuous support for the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020, which requires stronger measures in the areas of education, employment, health care and housing in view of the existing gap regarding the integration of persons belonging to the Roma national minority.

At the global level, the efforts made to promote and protect the rights of national minorities, including the Roma national minority, are followed at the UN forums. Croatia upholds and votes for initiatives to address positively the implementation of all aspects of the protection and promotion of national minority rights, as well as those undertaken to advocate combating stigmatisation, discrimination and hate crimes. Accordingly, at the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly in 2017, Croatia co-sponsored the resolution on the Effective Promotion of the Declaration of the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities.

In the same vein, Croatia participated in the tenth session of the Forum on Minority Issues held in Geneva in 2017, with a focus on the issue of young persons belonging to national minorities (inclusive education to empower minority youth, participation minority youth in public life, digital media and minority youth as agents of change for peace and stability), where it presented its practice of Roma youth education and inclusion in public life. Furthermore, the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Croatia to the UN took part in the OHCHR's Minority Fellowship Programme, which involves participation by human rights activists and defenders engaged in national minority rights.

As part of the 37th session of the Human Rights Council (March 2018), Croatia took part in the interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on minority issues, where it upheld a minority protection approach on a non-discriminatory basis. In this context, discussing the promotion and protection of minority rights, the Ministry reported on the progress made at the national level, especially towards action targeting young Roma and their social inclusion as well as the activities undertaken to empower Roma women. In keeping with tradition, the Ministry co-sponsored the resolution on national minority rights, which recommends a number of measures to enhance the rights of persons belonging to national minorities.

At the 39th session of the Human Rights Council – specifically, the side event “Pending Tasks in Roma People Inclusion”, sponsored by Spain and Ireland alongside Croatia (25 September 2018), the permanent representative of the Republic of Croatia to the UN, as one of the

panellists, presented Croatia's experiences with Roma participation in public and political life. In addition, she presented the key national documents dealing with the promotion and protection of persons belonging to the Roma national minority, including the plan to prepare a new comprehensive national strategy for Roma for the upcoming five-year period, which would also rely on a dedicated research effort undertaken in 2018, namely, "Roma Inclusion in Croatian Society: a Baseline Data Study". Its preparation involved cooperation by more than 100 experts and its purpose was to provide an analytical basis to define short- and long-term priorities at the national and regional levels.

Improvements to legislation

From the Report of the Ministry of Justice

The Amendments to the Criminal Code (*Narodne novine*, no. 101/17), which entered into force on 20 October 2017, introduced language as a new discriminatory basis in the existing definition of hate crimes. Accordingly, Article 87(1) defines a hate crime as a criminal offence motivated by someone's race, skin colour, religion, national or ethnic origin, language, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity. Such behaviour is taken as an aggravating circumstance, unless the Criminal Code expressly provides for more stringent sanctions, such as those stipulated in the special section of the effective Criminal Code (*Narodne novine*, nos. 125/11, 144/12, 56/15, 61/15 and 101/17, hereinafter: CC) for the criminal offences of first-degree murder, female genital mutilation, physical injury, grievous physical injury, particularly grievous physical injury, grievous offences against sexual freedom and disorderly behaviour, where the hate motivation has been laid down as a qualifying circumstance which also entails more stringent sanctions. In case of the criminal offences of coercion and threat, which are normally prosecuted as a result of private lawsuits or charges, hate motivation entails *ex-officio* prosecution.

Furthermore, the Amendments to the Criminal Code also introduced language as a new discriminatory basis with regard to the criminal offence of public incitement to violence and hatred, as stipulated by Article 325 under the Special Section. Accordingly, it has now become an element incriminating any public incitement (via the print media, radio, television, computer systems or networks, public gatherings or otherwise) to, or making available to the public any leaflets, images or other material calling for, violence or hatred against a group of people or any member thereof on grounds of their race, religion, national or ethnic identity, language, origin, skin colour, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability or any such other characteristics. Sanctions are also applicable to anyone who organises or leads a group of three or more persons with a view to committing this criminal offence and anyone who participates in such association. Furthermore, the punishable acts include publicly condoning, denying or trivialising certain crimes (genocide, aggression, crimes against humanity or war

crimes) against a group of people or any member thereof on grounds of their race, religion, national or ethnic identity in a manner likely to incite violence and hatred against such group or any member thereof.

In connection with the foregoing, Article 125 of the effective CC provides for the criminal offence of infringement of equality, which is deemed committed by any person who, on grounds of a difference in race, ethnic identity, skin colour, sex, language, political or other conviction, national or social background, property, birth, education, social status, marital or family status, age, health condition, disability, heredity, expression of gender identity, sexual orientation or such other characteristics, denies, restricts or conditions another person's rights to acquire goods or receive services, perform any activity or have access to employment or advancement, or any person who, on grounds of such difference, accords another person any privileges or favours with regard to the aforementioned rights, while paragraph (2) of the same Article provides for sanctions against anyone who persecutes individuals or organisations because of their commitment to equality among people.

Similarly, Article 6 of the Criminal Procedure Act (*Narodne novine*, nos. 152/08, 76/09, 80/11, 91/12, 143/12, 56/13, 145/13, 152/14 and 70/17) prohibits discrimination on grounds of race, ethnic identity, skin colour, sex, language, religion, political or other conviction, national or social background, property, trade union membership, education, social status, martial or family status, age, health condition, disability, heredity, gender identity, expression or sexual orientation as one of the principles of criminal proceedings. Any testimony obtained contrary to this prohibition cannot be admitted as evidence in proceedings. The same Act also asserts the right of parties and other participants in proceedings to use their native language. If any procedural action is not conducted in the language not spoken and understood by any person involved, interpretation services must be ensured to translate whatever such person or another person states as well as any other documentary evidence presented. Any such person must be informed of their right to interpretation services prior to the initial hearing.

Free Legal Aid Act

The Free Legal Aid Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 143/13) entered into force on 1 January 2014, superseding the Free Legal Aid Act (*Narodne novine*, nos. 62/08, 44/11 and 81/11) which was in effect from 1 February 2009 to 31 December 2013.

The new legal arrangements for the free legal aid system have relaxed the means criteria in order to ensure access to free legal aid for a wider scope of recipients, with changes being introduced in the procedure for receiving and financing primary legal aid to adjust it to the needs of both its recipients and providers.

The procedure for receiving free legal aid has been simplified to the maximum extent possible in that recipients can directly approach primary legal aid providers (authorised organisations, legal clinics or government administration offices), while primary legal aid services providers make their own checks as to whether applicants meet the legal requirements for eligibility to receive primary legal aid. As already mentioned, the means criteria for approving primary legal aid have been relaxed, meaning that it can be provided in any legal matter, which was not the case heretofore. This enables a board scope of recipients to be informed of their basic rights and how to protect them without instigating proceedings before judicial or other government authorities.

Primary legal aid may take the form of providing general legal information, providing legal advice, preparing submissions for public authorities, the European Court of Human Rights and international organisations in line with international treaties and their rules of procedure, as well as representation in proceedings before public authorities and legal assistance in the out-of-court amicable settlement of disputes.

Currently, 49 associations and three legal clinics are registered with the Ministry of Justice as entities authorised to provide primary legal aid. The funds for free legal aid are secured in the central budget and allocated to the authorised organisations and law school legal clinics, based on their approved projects. When approving specific projects, special weight is given to the focus of services offered by primary legal aid providers on legal assistance to vulnerable social groups (e.g. persons with disabilities, victims of domestic violence, persons belonging to national minorities, etc.).

Secondary legal aid includes legal protection in civil and administrative proceedings as well as exemption from legal costs and court fees. The simplified and relaxed means criteria have ensured access to secondary legal aid for a larger number of recipients. The approval of legal assistance through exemption from legal costs and court fees is subject to less stringent requirements than those applied to approving secondary legal aid provided by attorneys-at-law, with exemption from court fees being possible in all legal proceedings.

Free legal aid for Roma

The purpose of the Free Legal Aid Act is to achieve equality, ensure effective legal protection and access to courts and other public-law bodies for all citizens of the Republic of Croatia and other persons under equal conditions, in keeping with the relevant legal provisions. Accordingly, persons belonging to the Roma national minority are also entitled to legal assistance in line with the criteria set in the Free Legal Aid, just like any other citizen of the Republic of Croatia and other persons residing in its territory.

As far as primary legal aid is concerned, several Roma associations are registered with the Ministry of Justice as authorised providers of primary legal aid. In addition, other associations active in Roma-inhabited areas also focus their activities on promoting and protecting minority rights and providing primary legal aid to vulnerable social groups such as the Roma, with some of them even keeping records of the number of primary legal aid services provided to Roma people. The eligible costs recognised by the Ministry of Justice in the implementation of projects by authorised organisations and legal clinics also include the costs of promotion and awareness-raising activities to inform potential recipients about the implementation of primary legal aid project.

Persons belonging to the Roma national minority, like other Croatian citizens and persons residing in Croatia's territory, have access to secondary legal aid in compliance with the criteria set by the relevant legislation. The Ministry of Justice keeps no record of the number of persons belonging to the Roma national minority for whom secondary legal aid has been approved because the objective of the Free Legal Aid Act is to ensure legal assistance for all socially and economically vulnerable citizens of the Republic of Croatia and persons residing in its territory under equal conditions. Therefore, neither the Act nor the implementing regulations enacted on the basis thereof contain the requirement for free legal aid applicants to state their national identity. All information on the conditions and procedures for access to free legal aid as well as application forms for the approval of free legal aid are available on the website of the Ministry of Justice.

2014-2018 reorganisation of the judiciary

During the course of 2013, consideration was given to the need to reorganise the judiciary in the Republic of Croatia. The organisational structure of the judicial authorities in Croatia was deemed unsuitable. Along with the Supreme Court of the Republic of Croatia and three high specialised courts with jurisdiction at the national level and the Public Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Croatia, there were 15 country courts, 67 municipal courts (34 of which had jurisdiction to administer justice in criminal matter), 61 misdemeanour courts, 7 commercial courts and 4 administrative courts as well as 15 county public prosecutor's offices and 33 municipal public prosecutor's offices.

Such an organisational structure demonstrated a number of deficiencies: a continued increase in the workload of judicial authorities with the highest case load, inconsistent workload levels among judicial bodies and officials, complex and costly case-delegation from courts with high workloads to those with lower workloads (as a primary measure used theretofore in order to ensure a consistent workload), lack of adequate judicial specialisation (which affected the length of proceeding and the quality of legal protection provided), slow and inefficient judicial protection and inability to ensure the constitutionally guaranteed right to trial within a

reasonable time (which inevitably reflected the continued increase in the number of applications for the protection of right to be tried within a reasonable time, which placed an additional strain on the central budget with more than HRK 88 million being paid by way of damages only in the period from 2011 to 2013), lack of adequate mobility among judicial staff, inefficient and inadequate use of the existing human and material resources, and high financial expenditures to ensure the functioning of the existing network of judicial bodies.

None of the earlier regulatory and organisational measures, such as the efforts to streamline the number and modify the subject-matter jurisdiction of judicial bodies, set up certain specialised courts, delegate cases and offer incentives to encourage staff transfers and fill in vacancies, did ever get to fully meet the expectations. The need to reorganise judicial bodies was most evident in the City of Zagreb, especially in view of the exigency to reduce the workload of Zagreb's Municipal Civil Court as the largest court in the Republic of Croatia.

The key starting guidelines to further reorganise the judiciary included: the territorial reorganisation of the network of municipal and misdemeanour courts as well as municipal public prosecutor's offices, the reorganisation of the judiciary by improving the efficiency of support staff services in judicial bodies, the reform of the appellate procedure through random electronic case allocation to all county courts in the Republic of Croatia and the completion of the digitisation process in all judicial bodies.

Before drafting a proposal for such reorganisation of the judiciary, a comprehensive analysis was undertaken to review performance data for all judicial bodies in the Republic of Croatia (total number and structure of cases, staffing, infrastructure and IT equipment situation, etc.), with special attention being given to the views of professionals and other members of the interested public.

The proposal for the reorganisation of the judiciary was first presented to the professional community on 14 January 2014, at the session of the Judicial Reform Implementation Monitoring Council, whose members lent their full support to the presented proposal. The minister of justice, together with his associates, visited all jurisdictions and held meetings with representatives of local judicial bodies and municipal and county authorities.

The territorial reorganisation of the network of first-instance courts and the reform of the appellate procedure were enacted by the Court Districts and Seats Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 128/14) and the Public Prosecution Districts and Seats Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 128/14).

The baseline criteria for the new territorial organisation of judicial bodies were to set up 15 jurisdictions and establish 24 municipal courts, 22 misdemeanour courts and 22 municipal public prosecutor's offices. For the first time ever, the network of misdemeanour courts was

fully consistent with that of municipal courts, with the network of commercial courts being expanded in that the existing seven courts have joined by another, eighth commercial court established in Pazin to cover the County of Istria due to a comparably large number of businesses and a high level of legal transactions in the region. The network of administrative courts and second-instance, high and supreme judicial authorities was not included in this reorganisation proposal.

One municipal and one misdemeanour court as well as one municipal public prosecutor's office were established in the territory of each county. The seats of these first-instance judicial authorities were located in the seats of the existing county courts and county public prosecutor's offices. In the counties where there were no existing county courts or county public prosecutor's offices, they were placed in the seats of those counties. Exceptionally, due to the previously secured spatial and technical prerequisites in the County of Krapina-Zagorje, the seat of all judicial authorities in the region was placed in the City of Zlatar.

Another exception was made for the territory of the City of Zagreb and a part of the County of Zagreb, in particular, due to its size and population level, that is, the workload of judicial bodies in the region. Therefore, in addition to judicial bodies established specifically for a greater part of the County of Zagreb with their seat in Velika Gorica, the already implemented court specialisation was maintained with regard to administering justice in criminal and labour matters for the City of Zagreb's area north of the Sava River and a part of Zagreb County's territory, which was put in place by the establishment and commencement of operation of the Municipal Criminal Court in Zagreb on 1 October 2007 and the Municipal Labour Court in Zagreb on 1 January 2012. Zagreb's Municipal Civil Court, Municipal Labour Court and Municipal Criminal Court were established with identical territorial jurisdiction, while the City of Zagreb's area south of the Sava River came under the jurisdiction of the Municipal Court set up in Novi Zagreb as a court with full general jurisdiction. Accordingly, Zagreb's Municipal Civil Court, Municipal Labour Court and Municipal Criminal Court cover an area with a population of slightly more than 700,000, while the Novi Zagreb Municipal Court has jurisdiction over an area with a population of over 300,000. Taken individually, however, they have a lower case inflow and an even workload.

The organisational structure of the aforementioned judicial bodies was also reflected in the establishment of the Misdemeanour Court in Zagreb and the Misdemeanour Court in Novi Zagreb as well as the Municipal Public Prosecutor's Office in Zagreb and the Municipal Public Prosecutor's Office in Novi Zagreb.

The new network of municipal courts and municipal public prosecutor's offices became operational on 1 April 2015, while that of misdemeanour courts started to operate on 1 July

2015, when 43 municipal and 39 misdemeanour courts as well as 11 municipal public prosecutor's offices became defunct.

While the proposed changes did not affect the judicial districts and seats of the existing courts, an important change was introduced in their territorial jurisdiction, primarily on account of the fragmented case law of individual county courts and its inconsistency at the national level, which created inequalities among citizens and affected legal uncertainty in general. The changes that were introduced allowed greater judicial specialisation, more consistent case law and faster case resolution.

As of 1 April 2015, each county court assumed jurisdiction for decisions on appeals against judgements passed by all municipal courts in criminal proceedings and, as from 1 July 2015, certain county courts specified in Article 4 of the Court Districts and Seats Act took over jurisdiction for second-instance decisions on appeals against decisions rendered by all municipal courts in labour, family and land registration proceedings.

The courts assigned to decide on appeals against decisions rendered by all municipal courts in labour disputes include the County Courts in Bjelovar, Osijek, Rijeka, Split and Zagreb.

The courts assigned to decide on appeals against decisions rendered by all municipal courts in family cases include the County Courts in Pula/Pola, Split and Zagreb.

The courts assigned to decide on appeals against decisions rendered by all municipal courts in land registration cases as well as appeals against decisions by all municipal courts in proceedings upon cancellation claims, correction claims, claims to rectify errors in registration and claims to justify preliminary notes include the County Courts in Split, Varaždin and Velika Gorica.

As of 1 January 2016, each county court assumed jurisdiction for second-instance decisions on appeals against decisions rendered by any municipal courts in all other categories of civil cases. Cases came to be assigned to specific county courts by a random allocation algorithm detailed in special secondary legislation. In addition to ensuring more consistent case law, this change has also led to a more consistent workload, which has also reflected in a faster conduct and shorter duration of second-instance proceedings.

The extension of county court territorial jurisdiction did not hinder citizen access to the courts because the law provides for their participation in appeals hearings and public law only by way of exception, in which cases citizen access to courts is ensured through closed-circuit remote communication systems (audio/video devices).

Derogation from the random allocation rules for the assignment of cases to county courts is also provided for in the event of repeated deciding on an appeal in a specific case, where the case is reassigned for deliberation to the same court.

The implementation of such a specific jurisdiction of appeals courts provides a basis to identify the need for potential future efforts to streamline the network of county courts and county public prosecutor's offices.

As a key component of the 2015 efforts to reorganise the judiciary, we should also highlight its full digitisation. In 2014 and early 2015, the HITRONET communication network became fully operational, including the centralisation of IT systems – in particular, the case management (eSpis) system at all municipal, commercial and county courts, the CTS system at all public prosecutor's offices and the new JCMS system at all misdemeanour courts – and the replacement of approximately 3,300 computers within the system.

The judicial bodies that became defunct and the former permanent staff services of such judicial bodies have now become permanent staff services of the newly established judicial bodies, while detailed arrangements made for communication among judicial bodies and their staff services enabled citizens to take a maximum number of actions by resorting to such staff services, which means that their access to justice is still ensured and is practically identical to that they used to have earlier, save for some actions which can only be taken in the seats of judicial bodies. Such a centralisation in the performance of specific actions – for instance, by providing that justice in criminal matters can only be administered in the seats of municipal courts – was undertaken solely for organisational and technical reasons, which – on the other hand – enhanced performance and shortened the duration of legal proceedings.

The reorganisation has enhanced consistency in the workload of judicial bodies and officials, reduced the costs of case delegation from courts with high workloads to those with lower workload levels, encouraged judicial specialisation and staff mobility, streamlined the use of the existing resources (judicial bodies' buildings, official vehicles, IT systems/equipment they apply, etc.) and reduced total overheads and infrastructure maintenance costs in the judiciary.

The size of individual courts and judicial districts following the 2014 and 2015 reorganisation and the geographic specifics of individual regions have nonetheless created certain difficulties in the management of large courts and their dislocated staff services, with such problems (including the consistently highest level of incoming cases) being especially acute in the judicial districts of Zagreb's and Split's courts. Similarly, undersized courts with less than 10 judges have proved to be unfit for efficient management and achieving their primary function. Furthermore, a significant decrease (by as much as 52%) in incoming misdemeanour cases following the 2013 amendments to the relevant misdemeanour legislation has shown that

there is no further purpose for maintaining a special organisational structure for misdemeanour courts, so their consolidation will allow for more efficient use of judges and civil service resources.

In July 2018, the Croatian Parliament adopted a total of six laws governing the organisation of the judiciary. Among these, the new Court Districts and Seats Act and the new Public Prosecution Districts and Seats Act specifically provide for further reorganisation of Croatia's Judiciary as of 1 January 2019.

As of 2019, efforts will be made to merge all municipal and misdemeanour courts in Croatia with their seat in the same city except for Zagreb and Split, where specialised municipal misdemeanour courts will be established. As a result, in addition to the existing 24 courts, another ten new municipal courts will be set up in Crikvenica, Đakovo, Kutina, Makarska, Metković, Pazin, Sesvete, Split, Vinkovci and Zagreb. Within the network of commercial courts, the Commercial Court in Dubrovnik will be established as a new commercial court, with territorial jurisdictions being altered for the Commercial Courts in Bjelovar and Varaždin in that the former take over the latter's jurisdiction for the territory of the County of Koprivnica-Križevci.

Recognising the specifics of the public prosecution service organisation, the network of municipal public prosecutor's offices will be increased from 20 to 25 offices by establishing three new public prosecutor's offices in Metković, Pazin and Vinkovci.

While preparing a draft map of new judicial districts for specific municipal courts as part of the 2018 judiciary reorganisation, the following parameters have been taken into account: the size and geographic specifics of each district, population level (over 50,000 residents), traffic connections, personnel, statistical court performance data, and infrastructural conditions for establishing new courts. All of the newly established courts would have between 10 and 100 judges. As for the network of public prosecutor's offices, attention was paid to the specifics of this category of judicial authorities compared to courts.

Further positive effects of this reorganisation include a continuing increase in judicial workload consistency, shorter legal proceedings and backlog reduction at municipal courts, enabling an integrated and full use of human resources at merging judicial bodies (in particular, the possibility to assign former misdemeanour court judges to other types of cases), easier access to courts for citizens (new courts in the network, stronger role of permanent staff services and court days), decreased territorial jurisdiction for certain municipal courts and public prosecutor's offices, easier management of judicial bodies thanks to a reduced number of locations where they operate, and reduced costs for citizens and their legal representatives who, after the 2015 reorganisation, had to travel for hearings to other towns and cities.

Continued changes made to other legislation governing the organisation of the judiciary (the Courts Act, the National Judicial Council Act, the Public Prosecution Act, the Judicial Academy Act) in the past period also had a positive impact on the judiciary's efficiency. Such trends will be continued by the Amendments to the Courts Act, with effect from 1 January 2019, and the Amendments the National Judicial Council, the Public Prosecution Act and the Public Prosecutors Council Act, effective as of 1 September 2018, as well as the new Judicial Academy Act, with its bill to be drafted by the end of 2018. Apart from enhancing judiciary's efficiency, the key goals of these changes are to increase accountability for judicial and public prosecution administration tasks, to reform the powers of judicial advisors, to strengthen professionalism and disciplinary accountability among judicial officials, to increase transparency and accelerate proceedings before the National Judicial Council, to reform the internship system and admission to judicial office, and to reform the training system for judicial officials and civil servants in the judiciary.

The judiciary's growing efficiency achieved by reorganization and other legislative reforms is also reflected in a continued backlog reduction at Croatia's courts. Accordingly, there was a total of 735,873 cases pending at the beginning of 2014, with 424,378 cases pending late in June 2018.

Recommendations of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

Resolution CM/ResCMN(2017)3 on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by Croatia

In Resolution CM/ResCMN(2017)3 on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by Croatia, adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 11 May 2017 at the 1286th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies, the Republic of Croatia is invited to take the following measures to improve further the implementation of the Framework Convention:

Recommendations for immediate action^[2]

- Prioritise attention to minority rights as an integral part of human rights in the government agenda and develop, in close consultation with minority representatives, effective mechanisms to ensure that persons belonging to national minorities can enjoy their rights without negative consequences resulting from that choice (comments on this issue are presented in Part I – Overview of improvements in the rights of national minorities in the reporting period);

- Systematically and promptly condemn all instances of nationalist and anti-minority rhetoric in the public and political discourse and the media, and ensure that all cases of hate crime and hate speech are effectively investigated and sanctioned, including in respect of the concern expressed in paragraph 48 of the Advisory Committee's opinion (comments on this issue are presented in this Report with reference to Article 4 of the Framework Convention);
- Prioritise the development and revitalisation of State assisted areas that are mainly inhabited by especially disadvantaged persons belonging to national minorities, in particular returnees (in line with the concern expressed in paragraphs 24 and 92 of the opinion) and Roma^[3], through targeted investments in infrastructure and employment opportunities (comments on this issue are presented in this Report with reference to Article 16 of the Framework Convention).

Further recommendations^[4]

- Ensure that the right to free self-identification is understood and applied, including with respect to multiple affiliations, in all data collection exercises and closely consult with minority representatives when analysing the qualitative and quantitative results, in particular when relevant for the enjoyment of minority rights (comments on this issue are presented in Part I – Overview of improvements in the rights of national minorities in the reporting period);
- Provide adequate political and financial support to the Office of the Ombudsman and proactively promote awareness of the antidiscrimination standards within the judiciary and amongst society, particularly amongst the most disadvantaged (comments on this issue are presented in this Report with reference to Article 4 of the Framework Convention);
- Proactively address the inequalities experienced by persons belonging to national minorities, in particular Serb and Roma, when accessing their rights, including in the justice system; develop a clear methodology for the collection of disaggregated data to obtain a comprehensive assessment of the access to rights situation and design effective measures for the promotion of equal opportunities; (comments on this issue are presented in Part I – Overview of improvements in the rights of national minorities in the reporting period);
- Increase available support for the promotion of cultural activities of national minority associations, including through the Council for National Minorities, while paying attention to their diversity, and ensure that the promotion of minority cultures is firmly

integrated into the broader cultural policy as a valued element of Croatia's diversity (comments on this issue are presented in this Report with reference to Article 5 of the Framework Convention);

- Develop a comprehensive strategy to promote inter-ethnic dialogue and reconciliation and intensify efforts to promote respect towards diversity in society generally, particularly through enhanced intercultural education and the work of the public broadcaster (comments on this issue are presented in this Report with reference to Articles 11 and 12 of the Framework Convention);
- Raise public awareness of the legal remedies available against hate crime and hate speech and promote professional journalism and ethical behaviour in the media through targeted training activities (comments on this issue are presented in this Report with reference to Article 3 of the Framework Convention);
- Increase support to minority language media, including independent and small media outlets, to promote a pluralist media environment and enhance the recruitment and training of persons belonging to national minorities in mainstream public broadcasting (comments on this issue are presented in this Report with reference to Article 8 of the Framework Convention);
- Raise awareness in society of Croatia's international and national legal obligations towards national minorities, and take adequate measures, including promoting close consultations among local authorities with representatives of minorities and the majority to implement effectively the right to use minority languages and scripts at local level in line with the domestic legal framework (comments on this issue are presented in this Report with reference to Article 11 of the Framework Convention);
- Ensure that all school curricula and textbooks reflect the diversity of Croatia and that teachers are effectively trained in accommodating diversity and promoting intercultural respect in the classroom; consult closely with national minority representatives on all questions related to minority language education, including through modern bi- and multilingual methodologies and in integrated environments (comments on this issue are presented in this Report with reference to Articles 11 and 12 of the Framework Convention);
- Enhance opportunities for persons belonging to national minorities, including women, to participate effectively as integral members of Croatian society in decision-making processes at central and local level; prioritise the recruitment of persons belonging to national minorities into public services, including law enforcement and the judiciary

(comments on this issue are presented in this Report with reference to Article 4 of the Framework Convention);

- Revise the NSRI in line with the evaluation conducted and pay increased attention to its implementation by enhancing co-operation among all line ministries and allocating adequate resources; closely involve Roma representatives at all levels, including in the development and implementation of a new action plan (comments on this issue are presented in Part I – Overview of improvements in the rights of national minorities in the reporting period).

PART II. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION

With reference to Article 3 of the Framework Convention

One of the fundamental principles underpinning the overall political and legal system of the Republic of Croatia is the equality of all persons before the law. Article 14 of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia provides that all persons in Croatia enjoy certain rights and freedoms, regardless of race, colour, gender, language, religion, political or other conviction, national or social origin, property, birth, education, social status or other traits. Building upon the aforementioned provision, Article 15 guarantees equality to the members of all national minorities (paragraph (1)) as well as the freedom to express their nationality, to use their language and script and to exercise cultural autonomy (paragraph (4)).

The right to declare one's national identity is a private matter of each individual and no one can deprive any person of his/her right to declare him-/herself a national minority member. The criminal offence of violating one's right to express his/her national identity is regulated in Article 126 of the Criminal Code. Specifically, anyone who deprives a person belonging to a national minority of his/her right to express freely his/her national identity or restricts such right is liable to a prison sentence of up to one year. Paragraph 2 of this Article stipulates that the same sanction also applies to anyone who, contrary to legislation governing the use of language and script, deprives a person of his/her right to use his/her language and script or curtails such right.

The freedom to declare one's national identity is also stipulated in Article 7 of the Republic of Croatia Population and Dwellings Census Act, pursuant to which persons belonging to national minorities could freely declare their ethnic background during the 2011 population census.

With regard to the application of the Framework Convention, progress was made as a result of amendments to the preamble of the Constitution, whereby the former list of ten national minorities was extended to include an additional twelve minorities.

With reference to Article 4 of the Framework Convention

From the Report of the Ministry of Justice

Respect for the rights and freedoms guaranteed in Article 3 of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities is ensured by Article 126 of the Criminal Code (*Narodne novine*, nos. 125/11, 144/12, 56/15, 61/15 and 101/17), which incriminates anyone who commits the offence of violating one's right to express his/her national identity. This criminal offence entails a prison sentence of to one year for anyone for deprives a person belonging to a national minority of his/her right to express freely his/her national identity or enjoy cultural autonomy or restricts such right. Paragraph 2 of this Article stipulates that the same sanction also applies to anyone who, contrary to legislation governing the use of language and script, deprives a person of his/her right to use his/her language and script or curtails such right.

In its Preamble, the Croatian Constitution describes the Republic of Croatia as a free a sovereign and democratic state in which equality, freedom and human and civil rights are guaranteed and secured. The highest values of the constitutional order include: freedom, equal rights, national and gender equality, peace-making, social justice, respect for human rights, inviolability of property, conservation of nature and the environment, the rule of law and a democratic multiparty system.

Furthermore, Article 14 of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia provides that all persons in Croatia enjoy certain rights and freedoms, regardless of race, colour, gender, language, religion, political or other conviction, national or social origin, property, birth, education, social status or other traits. Article 15 of the Constitution guarantees equality to persons belonging to national minorities.

The Constitution specifies two institutions which guarantee the implementation of the constitutionally guaranteed human rights: the Ombudsman and the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Croatia. The Ombudsman, who also acts as the commissioner of the Croatian Parliament responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights, is the central institution in charge of combating discrimination in line with the Anti-discrimination Act.

Along with the Anti-discrimination Act, there is a series of laws containing anti-discrimination provisions. Among these, we should highlight the National Minority Rights Act, the Labour Act, the Gender Equality Act, the Civil Partnership Act, the Civil Servants Act and the Criminal Code.

In the reporting period under review, significant improvements have been made in strengthening the institution of the Ombudsman, as well as other specialised ombudsman institutions. Among other things, the Report states that citizens show their readiness to point at discriminatory practices, which is followed up by relevant institutions committed to a consistent application of the legal prohibition of discrimination. In addition to enabling citizens to file complaints and charges, the anti-discrimination system also includes preventive activities such as training for professionals, policy-making in compliance with the equal treatment principle, and the elimination of stereotypes and prejudice. Accordingly, success in combating discrimination hinges on both reactive and proactive action.

Furthermore, it has been reported that the number of complaints filed with the ombudsman institutions has been growing since the effectiveness of the Anti-discrimination Act, with citizens steadily resorting to the ombudsman on account of discrimination in labour and employment practices and on grounds of race, ethnic identity, colour and national background. This is also confirmed by the findings of the Survey of Attitudes and Awareness of Discrimination and Its Forms, conducted late in 2016, wherein respondents stated that discriminatory practices were most widespread in the area of labour and employment, followed by the judiciary, the media and education, with national identity or background, religion, social background, property and political belief being identified as most frequent grounds for discrimination. The findings of the Survey showed that 50 per cent of the respondents were not aware of the Anti-discrimination Act, as the umbrella law on combating discrimination in effect since 2009. The number of complaints lodged and lawsuits brought against discriminatory practice does not paint a full picture of the presence of discrimination because, in most of the cases, citizens fail to report it to anyone.

Relying on data collected by the courts, the Ministry of Justice maintains records of legal proceedings (misdemeanour, civil and criminal) related to discriminatory practices and discrimination grounds. As a result, it has set up a dedicated database with the 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 figures presented below. The figures for 2018 will be available early in 2019.

With regard to criminal cases related to discriminatory practices and grounds by which such cases are processed, a total of three new cases were filed in 2014, down from five in 2013. Among these, one case pertained to discrimination on grounds of national background, which is an increase relative to 2013, when there were no such cases. A final judgment was pronounced in one case, but it was not related to discrimination on grounds of ethnic identity or national background.

With regard to civil cases related to discriminatory practices and grounds by which such cases are processed, a total of 31 cases were filed in 2014, down from 52 in 2013. As in 2013, there were no cases related to discrimination on grounds of ethnic identity in 2014. One case

pertained to discrimination on grounds of national background, down from six in 2013. 22 final judgements were pronounced, neither of which pertained to discrimination on account of ethnic identity, which means there was no change relative to 2013, whereas two final judgements pertained to cases of discrimination on grounds of national background, with claims being dismissed in both. This is a decrease compared to 2013, when five final judgements were pronounced in cases of discrimination on grounds of national background, with claims being dismissed in three cases and two cases not being resolved on merits, but settled otherwise.

With regard to misdemeanour cases related to discriminatory practices and grounds by which such cases are processed, a total of 137 cases were filed in 2014, up from 56 in 2013. Among these, 28 cases pertained to discrimination on grounds of ethnic identity, which is a significant increase relative to the preceding year, when five such cases were filed. 39 cases were filed on account of discrimination based on national background, which was also much more than in 2013, when 15 such cases were filed. A total of 94 final judgements were pronounced in 2014, up from 55 in 2013. Among these, 18 judgements were rendered for discrimination on grounds of ethnic background (including 8 convictions, 5 acquittals and 5 cases which were not resolved on merits (but were settled otherwise), which is much more than in 2013, when three such judgments were rendered (2 convictions and 1 acquittal). 20 judgements were pronounced for discrimination on grounds of national background (15 convictions, 1 acquittal and 4 cases which were not resolved on merits), which is an increase compared to 2013, when 13 such judgements were rendered (12 convictions and 1 acquittal).

With regard to criminal cases related to discriminatory practices and grounds by which such cases are processed, ten new cases were filed in 2015, up from three in the preceding year. Among these, one case pertained to discrimination on grounds of ethnic identity, just like in 2014, while two pertained to discrimination on account of national background, which is also identical to their number in 2014. Final judgements were pronounced in two cases, one of which pertained to discrimination on account of ethnical identity or national background. This is an increase relative to 2014, when a final judgment was pronounced in one case, but it did not pertain to discrimination based on ethnic identity or national background.

With regard to civil cases related to discriminatory practices and grounds by which such cases are processed, a total of 93 cases were filed in 2015, up from 31 in 2014. Six cases were filed in 2015 with respect to discrimination on grounds of ethnic identity, which is a major increase compared to the preceding reporting period, when no such cases were filed. 45 cases were filed concerning discrimination on account of national background, which is a considerable increase relative to 2014, when just one such case was filed. Final judgements were pronounced in a total of 73 cases, two of which pertained to discrimination on grounds of ethnic identity (with nether being resolved on merits), which is an increase compared to 2014,

when a final judgement was rendered in one such case. As for cases of discrimination on account of national background, final judgments were pronounced in 41 cases, including two cases where claims were dismissed and 39 cases which were not resolved on merits, which is a significant increase compared to 2014, when two final judgments were pronounced in such cases, with claims being dismissed in both.

With regard to misdemeanour cases related to discriminatory practices and grounds by which such cases are processed, a total 125 cases were filed in 2015, which is similar to their number in the preceding year, when there were 137 such cases. Among these, 27 cases pertained to discrimination on grounds of ethnic identity, which is more or less in line with their number a year earlier, when 28 such cases were filed. 56 cases were filed with respect to discrimination on account of national background, up from 28 in 2014. In 2015, final judgements were pronounced in a total of 81 cases, which is more or less consistent with their number in 2014, when final judgments were rendered in 94 cases. Among these, 24 judgments were pronounced for discrimination on grounds of ethnic identity (17 convictions and 7 acquittals), which is slightly more than a year earlier, when there were 18 judgements (8 convictions, 5 acquittals and 5 cases which were not resolved on merits). 29 judgements were pronounced in cases of discrimination on account of national background (11 convictions, 9 acquittals and 9 cases not resolved on merits), which is an increase relative to the preceding year, when 18 final judgements were rendered in such cases (15 convictions, 1 acquittal and 4 cases not resolved on merits).

With regard to criminal cases related to discriminatory practices and grounds by which such cases are processed, a total of six new cases were filed in 2016, among which one pertained to ethnic and one to national identity, while out of a total of two new cases filed a year earlier, both pertained to discrimination on account of national background. Final judgements were pronounced in three cases, including two cases related to discrimination based on national background, which is identical to their number in the preceding years, while the number of convictions in cases pertaining to discrimination on this grounds increased from one in 2015 to two in 2016. A total of four sanctions were imposed in 2016, including three sanctions in cases pertaining to discrimination on account of national background, which is an increase compared to the preceding year when, out of a total of two sanctions, one pertained to this grounds for discrimination.

With regard to civil cases related to discriminatory practices and grounds by which such cases are processed, a total of 53 cases were filed in 2016, one of which pertained to discrimination on grounds of ethnic identity and two to discrimination on account national background. This is a significant decrease compared to the preceding year, where there were six new cases related to discrimination on grounds of ethnic identity and 45 cases pertaining to discrimination on account of national background. Final judgements were pronounced in a

total of 43 cases, of which one pertained to discrimination on grounds of ethnic identity and eight to discrimination on account of national background. This is a decline compared to the preceding year when, out of 73 cases resolved, two pertained to discrimination on grounds of ethnic identity and 41 to discrimination on account of national background. The resolved cases related to discrimination on account of national background included five cases where claims were dismissed and three cases which were not resolved on merits (but were settled otherwise), which constitutes a decrease relative to the preceding year.

With regard to misdemeanour cases related to discriminatory practices and grounds by which such cases are processed, a total of 132 cases were filed in 2016, which is more or less in line with their number a year earlier, when there were 125 cases. Among these, 11 cases pertained to discrimination on grounds of ethnic identity, which is less than a year earlier, when there were 27 such cases. There were 60 new cases related to discrimination on account of national background, which is similar to their number a year earlier, when there were 56 such cases. In 2016, final judgements were pronounced in a total of 103 cases, up from 81 cases resolved a year earlier. Among these, nine judgments were rendered for discrimination on grounds of ethnic identity (7 convictions, 1 acquittal and 1 case which was not resolved on merits), with a decrease compared 17 cases resolved a year earlier. 45 judgements were rendered in cases related to discrimination on account of national background (23 convictions, 16 acquittals and 7 cases which were not resolved on merits), up from 29 final judgements pronounced in such cases a year earlier.

With regard to criminal cases related to discriminatory practices and grounds by which such cases are processed, a total of four new cases were filed in 2017, two of which pertained to national background, while among six new cases filed a year earlier, one pertained to ethnic and one to national background. Final judgements were rendered in a total of two cases, one of which concerned discrimination on grounds of ethnic identity, with a total of three cases concluded with final judgements a year earlier, two of which pertained to discrimination on account of national background.

With regard to civil cases related to discriminatory practices and grounds by which such cases are processed, a total of 56 new cases were filed in 2017, two of which concerned discrimination on grounds of ethnic identity, which is practically identical to their number a year earlier, when a total of 53 cases were filed, one of which pertained to discrimination on grounds of ethnic identity and two to discrimination on account of national background. Final judgements were pronounced in a total of 43 cases, one of which pertained to discrimination on grounds of ethnic identity and two to discrimination on account of national background, with 43 cases also being resolved a year earlier, one of which pertained to discrimination on grounds of ethnic identity and eight to discrimination on account of national background. As for the two cases resolved concerning discrimination on account of national background,

claims were dismissed in both, while the case dealing with discrimination on grounds of ethnic identity was not resolved on merits (but was settled otherwise).

With regard to misdemeanour cases related to discriminatory practices and grounds by which such cases are processed, a total of 89 cases were filed in 2017, down from 132 cases filed a year earlier. Among these, five cases concerned discrimination on grounds of ethnic identity, down from 11 such cases filed in the preceding year. There were 39 new cases pertaining to discrimination on account of national background, which is also less than a year earlier, when there were 60 such cases. In 2017, final judgements were pronounced in a total of 117 cases, which is somewhat more than a year earlier, when 103 cases were resolved. Among these, 10 cases were resolved concerning discrimination on grounds of ethnic identity (including 5 convictions entailing pecuniary sanctions, 4 acquittals and 1 case which was not resolved on merits), which is similar to their number a year earlier, when there were nine cases resolved concerning to discrimination on grounds of ethnic identity (7 convictions, 1 acquittal and 1 case that was not resolved on merits). 62 cases were resolved concerning discrimination on account of national background (including 31 convictions entailing 30 fines and 1 community service sanction, 22 acquittals and 9 cases not resolved on merits), which is an increase compared to the preceding year, when 45 cases were resolved (including 23 convictions, 16 acquittals and 7 cases resolved otherwise, i.e. not on merits).

From the Report of the Ministry of the Interior

Ethnically motivated crimes and discrimination-related proceedings

The state of security in the areas of special state concern (Groups I and II) in 2017 and comparison with 2016

The Act of Areas of Special State Concern (as published in *Narodne novine*, nos. 86/08, 57/11, 51/13, 148/13, 76/14, 147/14 and 18/15 established areas of special state concern (ASSC) in the Republic of Croatia and incentives for their reconstruction and development). The circumstances that arose as a result of the aggression against Croatia (Groups I and II) and the level of economic development, structural difficulties and demographic criteria (Group III) were taken into consideration when classifying the ASSCs.

These areas were established in order to alleviate the consequences of war and ensure the speedier return of the population that lived in these areas prior to Croatia's Homeland War, encourage demographic and economic growth, and thereby also achieve more balanced development of all territories in Croatia. At the same time, these are also areas in which the population of the Serbian minority in the Republic of Croatia is more present in comparison to other national minorities.

ASSCs under Groups I and II were delineated in the territories of eleven (11) police departments, as follows: Bjelovar-Bilogora, Slavonski Brod-Posavina, Karlovac, Lika-Senj, Osijek-Baranja, Požega-Slavonia, Sisak-Moslavina, Šibenik-Knin, Virovitica-Podravina, Vukovar-Srijem and Zadar. Since they do not span across the entire jurisdictions of the aforementioned 11 police departments, the state of security was reviewed separately for the ASSCs and for the entire jurisdictions, as reflected in the figures presented below.

While defining the ASSCs, consideration was given to the circumstances that arose from the occupation of, and the consequences of the aggression against, the Republic of Croatia as well as the criteria of economic development levels, demographic trends and structural challenges. These areas were established in order to alleviate the consequences of war and accelerate the return of the population that lived in these areas prior to Croatia's Homeland War, encourage demographic and economic growth, and thereby also achieve a more balanced development of all regions in Croatia.

The ASSCs cover an area of 20,406.91 km², spanning over 57.41 per cent of the jurisdictions of the aforementioned police departments, which cover a total area of 35,543.89 km². The highest share of ASSCs is that within the jurisdiction of the Vukovar-Srijem Police Department (81.10%), with their lowest share being within the Slavonski Brod-Posavina Police Department (16.62%).

According to the 2011 census, the jurisdictions of the 11 police departments which include ASSCs have a total population of 1,557,419. In terms of its ethnic structure, Croats account for 1,353,680 or 86.92 per cent of this number, Serbs for 134,042 or 8.61 per cent, while other ethnic groups account for 69,697 or 4.48% per cent.

The ASSCs themselves have a total population of 436,153 (27.98% of the population living in the jurisdictions of the 11 police departments in question). In terms of its ethnic structure, Croats account for 316,200 or 72.50% of this number, Serbs for 91,080 or 20.88%, while other ethnic groups account for 28,873 or 6.62 per cent.

Crime rates and trends

During the course of 2017, a total of 4,051 crimes were reported for the ASSCs, which is 139 or 3,3 per cent less than in 2016, when there was a total of 4,190 crimes reported.

Furthermore, a certain increase was also reported for the crime resolution rate. Specifically, a total of 2,455 crimes were solved in 2017, which means that that the crime resolution rate

increased by 98 crimes or 4.2 per cent relative to the preceding year (with 2,357 crimes solved in 2016).

A slight decrease was reported for subsequent detection rates, with 1,058 crimes subsequently detected in 2017, i.e. 203 or 16.1 per cent less than in 2016, when 1,261 crimes were detected.

The highest growth in the 2017 crime rates relative to their 2016 levels was reported for the Šibenik-Knin Police Department, i.e. by 64 offences or 35.6 per cent, with the highest decline being reported for the Vukovar-Srijem Police Department, i.e. by 151 offences or 15.4 per cent.

Public peace and order situation

A total of 1,542 misdemeanours, as defined in the Public Peace and Order Disturbance Act, were recorded in the ASSCs during 2017, which is 289 or 15.8% less than in 2016, when 1,831 misdemeanours were reported.

The highest increase in the number of misdemeanours perpetrated in 2017 was reported by the Slavonski Brod-Posavina Police Department, i.e. by nine misdemeanours or 39.1 per cent, with the highest decline in their number during 2017 relative to 2016 being reported for the Osijek-Baranja Police Department, i.e. by 158 misdemeanours or 38.8 per cent.

Furthermore, a total of 133 incidents were reported in the ASSCs during 2017, which involved elements of interethnic intolerance and, as a result, came into public focus, including in particular:

No. of incidents	Perpetrator's ethnicity	Ethnicity of person(s) / protected legal asset affected by incident(s)
0	N.N.	Serbian / universal social values
6	Croatian	Serbian / universal social values
0	Serbian	Universal social values
1	N.N.	Croatian / universal social values
1	Croatian	Universal social values
0	Serbian	Croatian / universal social values
1	Serbian and Croatian	Serbian and Croatian
0	Croatian	Serbian

Note: For purposes of comparison, a total of 20 incidents were reported during 2016 which involved elements of interethnic intolerance and, as a result, came into public focus.

Return of displaced persons

There were no reports of persons returning to the ASSCs in 2017. As reported by the 11 police departments, a total of 102,547 have so far returned to the ASSCs. A look at the state of security in the ASSCs during 2017 relative to 2016 reveals that crime rates dropped by 3.3 per cent, with a 15.8 per cent decrease being also evident in the number of misdemeanours under the Act on Disturbance of the Public Peace and Order.

Furthermore, the data supplied suggest that crime and misdemeanour challenges within the ASSCs, as reflected in figures indicating the rates of crimes and misdemeanours against public peace and order as well as their trends in the period under review, do not show any substantial difference or departure from those reported in aggregate for the police department jurisdictions where the ASSCs have been established under the relevant legislation.

Preventive projects, programmes and campaigns

During the course of 2017, the Ministry of the Interior implemented the following preventive projects, programmes and campaigns:

“Living a Life without Violence” is a national preventive project implemented by the Ministry of the Interior for a third consecutive year. It is aimed at preventing violence against women, domestic violence and violence among youth and building a culture of non-violence and tolerance. In 2017, the project was carried out through a preventive activity organised in Županja under the title “In Memoriam Miroslav Tunjić” as a reminder of the youngster’s tragic death, as part of which public awards were presented to “Non-violence Champions”, namely, primary and secondary school students nominated by their peers. This preventive activity involved participation by 500 primary and secondary school students and was carried out in cooperation with local authorities, educational institutions and other socially responsible personalities from public life. In 2016, the activity was implemented across seven counties, involving students from a total of 16 primary schools and, thus, engaging 1,579 students aged 13 and 14.

Furthermore, an event organised in Mala Subotica on 24 November 2017 to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women as part of the aforementioned project focused specifically on empowering young people towards non-discrimination, tolerance and respect for differences, including the showing of an educational documentary called “Get Married When You’re Ready”, which addressed the issue of early and/or forced marriage among the Roma community. The programme was carried out as part of regular police activities and its costs were, accordingly, covered from regular central budget allocations for the Ministry of the Interior.

“I Have a Choice” is a national preventive project carried out each academic year in one educational institution within the County of Međimurje. It was coordinated by the Police Directorate’s Prevention Unit, with the Međimurje Police Department being in charge of its on-site implementation along with other partners. Following the same pattern, the project was also implemented in the academic year 2017/2018, covering a total of 56 fifth graders from a primary school in the same county. Through this project, the police established sound cooperation with Roma associations, civil society organisations and educational institutions in order to implement joint activities. The project is thematically focused on strengthening the social inclusion of minority groups in the community, with emphasis on dialogue and respect for differences through a culture of tolerance, non-violence, non-discrimination and prevention of all forms of hatred.

The project’s target group includes children aged 10 and 11. In the academic year 2016/2017, the project covered a total of 42 students. An evaluation was conducted confirming the project’s acceptance among children and the project partners. The programme was carried out as part of regular police activities and its costs were, accordingly, covered from regular central budget allocations for the Ministry of the Interior.

“Together We Can Do More” is a project designed for primary school fourth, fifth and sixth graders, including their parents. It is targeted towards preventing the abuse of addictive substances, especially drugs, preventing vandalism, peer violence and all other risk behaviours among children. It is carried out by the police in cooperation with educational institutions and other socially responsible organisations. In 2017, the project, i.e. its specific components, was carried out in 12 counties by the relevant police departments under the coordination of the Police Directorate’s Prevention Division. It covered 8,422 parents and more than 37,745 students in a total of 319 schools. In 2016, it was carried out in 11 counties by the relevant police departments under the coordination of the Police Directorate’s Prevention Division. It covered 10,000 parents and more than 40,000 students. The programme was carried out as part of regular police activities and its costs were, accordingly, covered from regular central budget allocations for the Ministry of the Interior, with part of funding being provided by the Prevention Councils, i.e. local authorities.

“Observe Our Signs” – a preventive campaign carried out by the police and its partners for more than 20 years now – has its primary focus on children’s traffic safety, with special emphasis on first graders during their first school commuting weeks. The campaign relies on the activities under the National Road Safety Programme and takes account of the NSRI objectives. Last year’s campaign activities were implemented by the Police Directorate together with a number of partners. In 2017, a total of 20 preventive educational activities were carried out as part of the “Observe Our Signs” campaign (compared to a total of 11 such activities undertaken in 2016) targeting junior grade students of primary schools.

As part of the event organised to mark International Romani Day on 7 April 2017, the campaign was carried out at Cestica Primary School within the jurisdiction of the Varaždin Police Department, covering a total of 200 students, including those belonging to national minorities as a special target group. The funds for the activity in Cestica were allocated under the National Road Safety Programme specifically for that purpose.

“Together” is a preventive campaign launched to raise the awareness of combating trafficking in persons through cooperation with relevant institutions and organisations, the private sector (exposed professions), local communities, civil society organisations and citizens, and to encourage the society to react responsibly in order to contribute to the efforts made to curb and prevent trafficking in persons.

Through awareness-raising, information sharing, education and a proactive approach to multiplication of knowledge about trafficking in persons and identifying potential crime hotspots, the campaign is – in terms of its expected outcomes – focused on reducing crime rates when it comes to trafficking in persons in all of its stages (recruitment, transportation and exploitation). In 2017, the campaign was carried out in the jurisdictions of 17 police departments, just like in 2016 (all PDs except the Dubrovnik-Neretva PD, the Virovitica-Podravina PD and the Zadar PD), with target groups being selected for the implementation of preventive activities based on the assessments made by each police department of vulnerable groups in need of education, information and awareness raising.

In 2017, the campaign included training organised for 5,000 students of final grades of primary school and students of secondary school, and approximately 80 university students, including a certain number of students belonging to national minorities. In 2016, education was provided for nearly 700 senior primary school students, more than 6,000 secondary school seniors, approximately 120 university students, and 36 preschool children. The programme was carried out as part of regular police activities and its costs were, accordingly, covered from regular central budget allocations for the Ministry of the Interior.

“Blue Carpet”, a festival of preventive educational films dedicated to security topics, took place from 22 to 25 May 2017. Croatia’s Ministry of the Interior, in collaboration with the Baden-Württemberg Police, organised the first Festival of Preventive Educational Films at Zagreb’s Europa Cinema Theatre. In addition to German preventive educational films shown during the festival, this was also an opportunity to present their Croatian counterparts. The festival also included debates held as a follow up on topics covered by each film.

They involved participation by representatives from scholarly organisations, ministries, non-governmental organisations and police departments as well as German police representatives.

The film festival was designated for school students, teachers and other interested citizens. One day was specifically dedicated to the topics of trafficking in persons, discrimination, early and/or forced marriage and the need to provide assistance to crime victims, all from the perspective of national minorities. The programme was carried out as part of regular police activities and its costs were, accordingly, covered from regular central budget allocations for the Ministry of the Interior.

By way of conclusion, the Ministry of the Interior should note that the Police Academy delivers its courses related to discrimination on ethnic grounds and hate crime as part of its law study programme dedicated to Criminal and Misdemeanour Law, offered over four teaching periods. As part of the study courses of Criminal Investigation, Crime Prevention and Psychology, the topic of hate crimes is covered through five teaching periods.

From the Report of the Ombudsman

As of 31 December 2017, the staff of the Ombudsman's Office included 45 civil servants and one employee, 37 of whom were based at the central Office in Zagreb, three in Split and Osijek each, and two in Rijeka. 38 staff members had university qualifications, two had two-year post-secondary programme credentials, and five had secondary school qualifications. In 2017, there were five trainees included in the on-the-job training without employment programme: two in the Zagreb Office and one in each of the regional offices.

At the beginning of 2017, the Ombudsman's Office was managed by the Ombudsman and her two Deputies. Another Deputy Ombudsman was appointed in March 2017 and put in charge of the rights of persons deprived of liberty and the activities of the National Preventive Mechanism. The funds budgeted for the Ombudsman's Office have showed a slight, but steady increase since 2013, which is certainly encouraging as the number of cases acted upon by the Office grows at an even more significant rate. Building the physical and financial capacity of the Office is the only way to ensure the capability to respond to such a high increase in the number of cases, but also to accomplish efficiently all tasks assigned to the institution under the Ombudsman's mandate as a status "A" independent national institution, i.e. the central anti-discrimination body and National Preventive Mechanism. Therefore, it is essential to continue with the efforts to strengthen it in future as well.

Zagreb hosted the international conference on "Protecting Human Rights and Strengthening Democracy in Europe", organised under the auspices of the Croatian Parliament to mark the 25th anniversary of the Ombudsman Act. Along with Željko Reiner, deputy speaker of the Croatian Parliament and a member of the Croatian Academy of Arts and Science, support for independence in the work of national human rights protection institutions was also expressed by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the CoE Commissioner on Human Rights,

the FRA's director, the Chair of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, the director of the German Institute for Human Rights and many more.

The conference, which was attended by more than 100 participants from Croatia and abroad, provided an opportunity to discuss the most pressing topics in the field of human rights and discrimination in Europe: combating terrorism, freedom of expression and ensuring a harmonious coexistence. Instead of conclusions, the representatives of independent human rights bodies, upheld by the International Ombudsman Institute (IOI), the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI) and the European Network of Equality Bodies (EQUINET), adopted the Zagreb Declaration, stressing the importance of human rights and equality as the values upon which Europe was built, as well as the role of the Declaration's signatories in strengthening democracy and the rule of law. A valuable input to promoting equality and combating discrimination is also provided by the EQUINET's strategic communication handbook, which relies upon the importance of promoting the values such as equality and social justice. The handbook was also prepared based on the experiences of five EQUINET members, including the Croatian Ombudsman's Office.

With reference to Article 5 of the Framework Conventions

From the Report of the Ministry of Culture

In keeping with the Constitutional Act, persons belonging to national minorities may, in order to preserve, develop, promote and express their national and cultural identity, establish associations, trusts and foundations as well as institutions for the performance of media, cultural, publishing, museum, archival, library and scientific activities.

The operation of such institutions is financed by the Republic of Croatia and local and regional governments, within the limits of their capacity. Through their associations and institutions, persons belonging to national minorities have developed numerous activities in the fields of culture, publishing and information in order to preserve their national and cultural identity to the maximum extent possible. In recent years, many national minority associations set up to preserve, develop and promote their national and cultural identity have marked two decades of active work.

Over this period, numerous initiatives and activities have been developed and many programmes have been implemented, often providing a contribution to Croatia's cultural scene at the national level. Special progress has been made in the development of publishing and library activities as a reflection of the actual media environment in which minority members engage in creative work, and – when it comes to investing in minority heritage - the

Republic of Croatia has once again committed most of its resources to the protection of immovable and movable cultural monuments.

The most important network of minority institutions is definitely that of central national minority libraries, which are continuously in the charge of the Ministry of Culture. These libraries constitute important hubs of cultural life in their local communities as well as forums for international cultural co-operation. The Ministry of Culture launches calls for proposals to carry out programmes meeting community requirements in the field of culture, as part of which it co-finances programmes of national minorities in keeping with its remit and using its budget appropriations, whereby it fulfils its constitutional and legal obligation to preserve their national identity.

The Ministry of Culture makes continued and systematic efforts to ensure and foster the cultural autonomy of national minorities, enabling their members to enjoy their freedoms in culture and arts through all aspects of creative expression and activity where they can develop and promote their cultural and national identity, but also make an active and equal contribution to cultural life in general.

In 2014, the Ministry of Culture allocated HRK 11,230,760.10, for the protection of sacral structures, the operation of national minority libraries, the publishing activities and programmes of national minority institutions, museum and gallery activities, fine arts, music and the performing and dramatic arts, including professional and amateur theatres. In 2015, the amount allocated for the same purposes was HRK 16,592,084.33, in 2016 HRK 11,296,278.39, and 2017 HRK 12,610,863.92. Overall, in the period from 2014 through 2017, the Ministry of Culture provided a total of HRK 51,729,986.74 for national minority programmes meeting community requirements in the field of culture.

From the Report of the Council for National Minorities

Pursuant to Articles 15 and 16 of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities (*Narodne novine*, nos. 155/02,47/10 and 80/10 and 93/11), persons belonging to national minorities may establish associations, trusts and foundations, as well as institutions engaging in public information, cultural, publishing, museum, library or scientific activities in order to preserve, develop, promote and express their national identity, and are free to maintain contacts with the people with whom they share the same ethnic, linguistic, cultural and/or religious characteristics, as well as with legal entities having their seat in the country of that people, engaging in educational, scientific, cultural, publishing and humanitarian activities.

During the reporting period, the Council assessed the implementation of elections for national minority councils and representatives, held on 31 May 2015 in all counties and approximately

two hundred towns/cities and municipalities with a turnout 13.5 per cent. They were organised to elect 288 minority councils and 173 representatives. The right to vote was enjoyed by an electorate of somewhat more than 300,000, among whom 280,000 voters could elect council members and 25,000 could elect representatives. A total of 6,454 ran for election. As part of the educational promotion campaign on elections for national minority councils and representatives, the Croatian Parliament hosted a round table on Minority Elections and the Work of National Minority Councils: “Different Colours, Same Team – The Bright Colours of Croatia”. The event was organised on 27 May 2015 in order to inform national minority members of the importance of minority elections and encourage them additionally to take an active part in the elections, including further improvements in the work of national minority councils and representatives in their forthcoming term of office. It was recommended that a special law should be enacted to regulate elections for national minority councils and representatives in more detail and that national minorities representatives should be afforded the status of non-profit legal persons.

The International and Security Studies Centre of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Zagreb, the Council for National Minorities and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation organised the 19th International Symposium on National Minorities in Democratic Societies, held from 21 to 24 May 2015 on the Brijuni Islands, with the Belgrade University’s Faculty of Political Science, County of Istria, City of Pula and Municipality of Medulin as co-organisers.

The symposium’s central topic was “Exercising Minority Rights under Crisis Conditions”, including discussions on different aspects of minority action in Croatia and its neighbouring countries, held within the following panels: Impact of EU Membership on National Minority Rights; Impact of Regional Cooperation on Minority Protection in the European Area; Political Representation of Minorities in Democratic Countries; Right to Official Use of Language and Script; and Exercising the Right to Cultural Autonomy.

The Council, together with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Faculty of Political Science of the University of Zagreb, International and Security Studies Centre, Faculty of Political Science of the University of Belgrade, County of Istria, City of Pula and Municipality of Medulin, organised the jubilee 20th international symposium held from 19 to 22 May 2016 on the Brijuni Islands and involving participation by numerous professionals from Croatia and South-East Europe countries, who discussed topics related to the issue of addressing interethnic tensions in the context of current developments and the latest challenges posed by migration flows and the refugee crisis and achieving cooperation in the exchange of inclusion, integration and diversity management strategies, experiences and policies.

The symposium discussed a number of other minority policy- and migrant crisis-related-topics such as: exercising national minority rights in neighbouring countries; impact of cooperation with neighbouring countries on national minority rights protection; political representation and exercising the right of national minorities to cultural autonomy; individual rights in the light of global policies – the migrant crisis and the right of asylum; contemporary security challenges to Euroatlantism and the dichotomy of NATO's response to the migrant crisis; migrant rights – respect for universal human rights; and the right to development.

The Council, acting in cooperation with OHRRNM, organised a seminar held on 13 October 2017 in Pula to discuss the role of national minority councils and representatives and efforts to enhance their work; council member and representative information and education issues; council and representative rights and obligations; and efforts to motivate and encourage them to engage in better cooperation with local and regional authorities, including an analysis of examples of good practices in the County of Istria. Another seminar was held on 7 September 2018 in Split to discuss national minority councils and representatives and efforts to enhance their work.

In particular, it was stressed that the working group set up to draft a bill on the election of national minority representatives and councils had held several meetings and prepared the final draft bill which eventually, for the first time ever, fully and systematically regulated this minority policy issue of great importance to Croatia's society and which could already be in effect by the 2019 elections for minority institutions. The seminar discussed the past role and work of national minority councils, representatives and coordinating bodies, specific problems of national minority members and good practice examples in the County of Split-Dalmatia.

The eight national minority members in the Croatian Parliament and the Council's chair signed the Declaration Against Intolerance and Ethnocentrism in Croatia on 14 May 2015 in Pula, spotlighting increased insecurity and unease due to a new escalation of fear and intolerance in Croatian society and calling on Croatia's political and cultural community as well as its general public to pool their efforts to oppose most strongly any discriminatory practice against those who differ from the majority by their individual and collective traits, including their ethnicity, religion, race, gender and age as well as ideological orientations.

According to Articles 18 and 35 of the Constitutional Act and Article 9 of the Croatian Radio-Television Act, Croatian Radio-Television furnishes the Council with its annual reports on the programmes it produced, co-produced or broadcast with a view to informing persons belonging to national minorities. Following its review of television programmes during the reporting period and its dedicated sessions held to discuss this topic, the Council found that television content fails to meet the obligation to broadcast programmes in minority languages

as stipulated in Article 11 of the Europe Charter for Regional and Minority Languages (to which Croatia acceded back in 1997), because there were no television features produced in minority languages. The Council found that radio content generally meets the programming obligations of Croatian Radio-Television under the relevant legislation and its Agreement with Croatia's Government, but some gaps still remain. Short time slots allocated to programmes in minority languages fail to provide persons belonging to one of the 22 national minorities with the opportunity to learn about the culture, tradition and life of other members of their minority in Croatia.

Pursuant to Article 36(8) and in with reference to Article 35(4) of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities, the Council for National Minorities of the Republic of Croatia has defined the Contracting and Financing Criteria for National Minority Cultural Autonomy Programmes and Monitoring and Evaluation Methodologies for Financed Programmes in order to establish the requirements to be met by national minority associations and institutions (hereinafter: associations and institutions) when applying for financial support from the central budget of the Republic of Croatia through the Council for National Minority of the Republic of Croatia (hereinafter: the Council) and ensure consistent reporting by associations and institutions on their spending of funds allocated from the central budget of the Republic of Croatia for the implementation of cultural autonomy programmes, i.e. monitoring the authorised use of funds allocated from the central budget of the Republic of Croatia and the implementation of cultural autonomy programmes in the fields of information and publishing, amateur cultural production and cultural events, initiatives under bilateral agreements and treaties and initiatives creating conditions to achieve cultural autonomy for national minorities. At its session of 10 November 2016, the Council adopted its new Contracting and Financing Criteria for National Minority Cultural Autonomy Programmes and Monitoring and Evaluation Methodologies for Financed Programmes, which came into effect upon their publication in *Narodne novine* no. 105/16 on 16 November 2016.

The Council posts a Public Invitation calling on national minority associations and institutions to propose cultural autonomy programmes in the fields of information and publishing, amateur cultural production and cultural events, initiatives under bilateral agreements and treaties and initiatives creating conditions to achieve cultural autonomy for national minorities. The Invitation is announced at the end of each calendar year for the following year and is open for applications at least 30 days from the date of its publication. Furthermore, the Council for National Minorities sets up its Commission for Allocation of Funds to National Minority Associations and Institutions for the implementation of national minority cultural autonomy programmes in the fields of information and publishing, amateur cultural production and cultural events as wells as initiatives under bilateral agreements and treaties. The Commission acts as an expert working group authorised to evaluate the proposed programmes and is composed of professionals in the fields of information and publishing,

amateur cultural production and cultural events, who prepare and put forth a decision on the allocation of funds appropriated in the central budget of the Republic of Croatia for national minority purposes.

Following its review of quarterly, semi-annual and annual reports submitted by associations and institutions on their implementation of programmes and their use of funds and based on audit findings and on-site inspections made by its Staff Service members, the Council for National Minorities finds that major progress has been made in the implementation of cultural autonomy programmes, the authorised use of budget funds and compliance with the reporting methodology requirements. The Council for National Minorities confirms the importance of co-financing cultural autonomy programmes from the central budget and the need for further education on the authorised use of budget funds and the reporting methodology because challenges are still present in the application of the effective rules.

In the period under review, a total of HRK 166,878,800 was allocated through the Council to national minority associations and institutions, in particular: HRK 33,698,000.00 in 2014, HRK 35,690,500.00 in 2015, HRK 31,819,500.00 in 2016, HRK 31,830,800.00 in 2017 and HRK 33,840,000.00 in 2018. A breakdown of funds allocated to national minority associations and institutions is attached to this Report as Appendix 4.

From the Report of the Croatian Government's Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities

When it comes to inclusion in social and cultural life during the period under review, 2015 saw a continued trend in improving the quality of programmes conducive to preserving the linguistic and cultural identity of persons belonging to the Roma national minority as a whole and enhancing the quality of their integration in the communities where they lived. Efforts were also continued to mark the events significant to the Roma community at the national level, which were accordingly supported by the OHHRNM and other relevant authorities at the national, regional and local levels, including the observations of International Roma Day, International Romani Language Day and International Roma Holocaust/Pharrajimos Remembrance Day at the Uštica Roma cemetery within the Jasenovac Memorial Site.

The OHRRNM co-finances programmes to preserve traditional Roma culture through Roma minority associations and culture clubs and has continued to grant financial support for the implementation of programmes contributing to the preservation of traditional Roma culture. In 2014, following the Public Call for applications for financial support to implement programmes contributing to the preservation of traditional Roma culture for 2014, it allocated a total of HRK 69,997.60 to eight associations. In 2015, funding was provided for six associations that received a total of HRK 63,725.00. There were no such allocations made in 2016, with HRK 60,000.00 being allocated to four associations in 2017.

With reference to Article 6 of the Framework Convention

From the report of the Ministry of Justice

Prosecution of war crimes

The Republic of Croatia resolutely continues the thorough investigation and prosecution of war crimes perpetrated in Croatia from 1991 onward, regardless of the ethnicity or rank of the perpetrators. The criminal prosecution of war crimes is undertaken pursuant to clear and objective criteria in compliance with the principle of legality.

Impartiality in this process is further ensured by the legislative framework, which stipulates the specialization of police officers, courts and public prosecutors. Furthermore, in order to secure uniform conduct in all cases, the Public Prosecution of the Republic of Croatia has set forth guidelines (instructions) to prosecutors on the establishment of procedural standards and the uniform application of standards for the prosecution of war crimes has been introduced.

Over and above the aforementioned instruction on standards for conduct and specialization of prosecutorial bodies, non-discriminatory and impartial treatment of war crimes cases is also reflected in the fact that county public prosecutors with effective jurisdiction are continuing to prosecute the perpetrators of all war crimes, including members of the Croatian armed forces. So in comparison to the report from July 2014, when prosecution was initiated against 112 members of the Croatian armed forces, as of 30 June 2018, criminal prosecution has been initiated against 122 members of the Croatian armed forces for war crimes, and indictments were raised against 105 individuals (in 2014, 94 persons were indicted), 51 persons were convicted (in 2014, 30 persons were convicted) and the prosecution of 16 persons is still under way.

As to the prosecution of crimes perpetrated during and after the military-police operation code-named Storm (1995), we emphasize that a total of 6,390 charges were filed against identified and unidentified persons for the crime perpetrated at the time. Proceeding in response to these charges, 3,728 persons were prosecuted, of whom 2,380 were convicted, and these cases involved theft, looting, arson, murders and war crimes.

Due to war crimes perpetrated during and after Operation Storm in which the perpetrators have not been discovered, the relevant public prosecution offices are continuing to demand criminal investigations in order to detect and prosecute these perpetrators. Despite the fact that not all perpetrators of war crimes have not yet been identified and prosecuted, the obligation of public prosecution to investigate all crimes and bring the perpetrators to justice

remains. Namely, the fundamental characteristic of work on these cases is the difficulty in gathering evidence given the passage of time since the perpetration of the crimes and the limited accessibility or complete inaccessibility of certain evidence.

This is particularly apparent in the gathering of evidence on the direct perpetrators of war crimes, so work on these cases is approached from two directions, and these are to gather evidence on direct perpetrators and the establishment of the accountability of the commander who ordered perpetration of a war crime or who failed to prevent the members of subordinate units from perpetrating these crimes.

With reference to the Fourth Opinion of the Advisory Committee on Croatia, in which, in footnote number 22, it states that “[n]o action appears to have been taken by the State Attorney’s Office, for instance, regarding the acts allegedly committed by the 123rd brigade of the Croatian Army in 26 settlements belonging to the municipality of Slavonska Požega in October 1991, leading to the death of 44 civilians and the destruction of over 1,000 residential and commercial premises[,]” we note that this is a case in which investigations against a thus far unidentified perpetrator are still under way and in which the work was entrusted to one of the four public prosecution offices specializing in war crimes, i.e., the County Public Prosecution in Osijek, which is working intensively on the case, although the details of completed work cannot be divulged since the investigations are confidential.

As to the assertion that only 25% of cases were “resolved fully by June 2013,” we note that this is an estimate provided by a non-governmental organization and we stress that the public prosecution does not maintain records in this manner but rather on the basis of the number of persons against whom prosecution is initiated and on the basis of war crimes. In this regard, according to the data contained in the Public Prosecution War Crimes Database, out of the 490 war crimes recorded, perpetrators were ascertained for 333 of them and criminal prosecution was initiated, while the perpetrator has still not been identified in the case of 157 war crimes.

Since education of the prosecutors working on war crimes cases contributes to efficient and more effective prosecution, during 2016 workshops were held on the topic of “Prosecution of War Crimes Cases,” which encompassed education on the application of the international laws of war and humanitarian law, application of international criminal law, and the case-law of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. Moreover, the public prosecution also participates in other educational programmes on convention law, so that deputy public prosecutors participated in a conference of the Croatian Association of European Criminal Law, entitled “Focal Points of Criminal Law Cooperation of the Republic of Croatia” and held in Osijek on 21 April 2017,

during which a lecture was held on “The Right to Life in Judgements of the European Court of Human Rights against the Republic of Croatia – Ineffective Investigation.”

Regional cooperation on war crimes cases on the basis of previously concluded agreements between the prosecution offices of neighbouring countries is continuing, and very successfully so, for requests for assistance from public prosecutors were not acted upon in only 7% of the cases. In the interest of bolstering bilateral cooperation with countries in the region, the Regional Prosecutors Conferences on cooperation in the prosecution of war crimes held on the Brijuni Islands and organized by the Public Prosecution of the Republic of Croatia continued. The first Regional Conference was held in 2007 at the initiative of the Public Prosecution of the Republic of Croatia.

With the aim of more effective handling of war crimes cases, particularly those in which the perpetrators have still not been identified and prosecuted, the “Liaison Officers” project organized by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (hereinafter: ICTY) and the UNDP continued. Under this project, a representative of the public prosecution at the ICTY Prosecutor’s Office in The Hague selects data useful to work in war crimes cases from the ICTY Database, which contains an enormous quantity of data and information. Furthermore, in order to secure the continuation of successful investigation and prosecution of war crimes, the Public Prosecution concluded the Memorandum of Consent between the Public Prosecution of the Republic of Croatia and the Office of the Prosecutor of the Mechanism for International Tribunals which extends the “jurisdiction, rights and obligations and key functions” of the ICTY. The signing of the Memorandum gave the Public Prosecution access to the information, materials, evidence and other forms of assistance necessary to prosecute, investigate or conduct trials pertaining to grave violations of international humanitarian law committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia since 1991.

The Public Prosecution of the Republic of Croatia is additionally involved in efforts to search for missing persons through the Guidelines on Improvement of Regional Cooperation for War Crimes Prosecution, Missing Persons Searches and Establishment of the Coordinating Mechanism, which was signed by the chief prosecutors of the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina and the UN resident coordinator in Bosnia-Herzegovina on 21 April 2015. The aforementioned Guidelines were signed as a continuation of earlier adopted protocols, memoranda and agreements between the public prosecution offices of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Public Prosecution of the Republic of Croatia and the War Crimes Prosecutor of the Republic of Serbia with the aim of ensuring the continuation and improvement of further cooperation between these judicial bodies in the prosecution of war crimes cases, and now also the search for missing persons, and since then numerous meetings

organized by the UNDP on the topic of regional consultation to enhance cooperation in the prosecution of war crimes and the search for missing persons have been held.

Besides this, representatives of the Public Prosecution of the Republic of Croatia have participated in two conferences dealing with the matter of missing persons. The first was held in Zagreb on 28 August 2017 on the topic of “Exhumation and Identification of Missing Persons in the Territory of the Republic of Croatia” and the second was held in Belgrade on 8 December 2017, also on the topic of “Exhumation and Identification of the Bodily Remains of Missing Persons in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia.” It is also noteworthy that the public prosecution participates in the work of the Croatian Government’s Commission on Imprisoned and Missing Persons and the Task Force for Gathering Information on Missing Persons and Unregistered Burial Sites.

With regard to undertaking suitable measures to protect persons who may be exposed to threats or discrimination, hostility or violence due to their ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious affiliation, which would be cases of hate crimes, the Public Prosecution of the Republic of Croatia has monitored them with particular attention since they were stipulated as such in criminal legislation. In 2006, the Instruction governing work on and registration of these crimes, which regulates how to proceed on hate crime cases which were later supplemented in line with the development of the factual and legal description of criminal acts perpetrated on the basis of hate. This instruction specifies the obligation of the public prosecution office with jurisdiction to maintain records of hate crimes and regularly submit the data to the Public Prosecution of the Republic of Croatia, which the latter in fact supervises and then forwards the consolidated data to the OHRRNM.

All hate crimes, regardless of the basis of discrimination, whether national or ethnic, linguistic or religious, which, together with sexual orientation, constitute the most common grounds, are recorded and monitored.

During 2014, the public prosecution received hate crime charges against 45 persons, raised 10 indictments, secured 4 convictions and made 5 decisions to refrain from initiating prosecution. In 2015, the public prosecution received hate crime charges against 41 persons, raised 7 indictments, secured 3 convictions and decided to refrain from initiating criminal prosecution against 8 persons. During 2016, 24 charges based on the crime stipulated in Article 87(21) of the Criminal Code were received. In that same year, 20 persons were indicted for that same crime, decisions on the initiation of investigations were made in the case of 2 persons, and acquittals were pronounced for 9 persons. The courts with jurisdiction meted out 9 convictions for hate crimes in 2016.

Besides hate crimes as described in Article 87(21) of the Criminal Code, which may constitute any criminal act, the crime of ‘Public Incitement to Violence and Hatred’ was instituted in the Criminal Code of 2011, thereby conveying into Croatian legislation the European Union’s Framework Decision on combating certain forms and expressions of

racism and xenophobia of 2008, and this provision is most often linked to so-called hate speech. We stress that during 2016, 37 persons were charged for the crime described in Article 325 of the Criminal Code. A decision to reject criminal charges was made for 23 persons, while indictments were raised against 8 persons. Based on the crime described in Article 325 of the Criminal Code, 8 convictions were pronounced in 2016.

In 2017, 18 charges were filed for various crimes pertaining to Article 87(21) of the Criminal Code, 6 were indicted, and decisions were made to reject the criminal charges with regard to 6 persons. The courts with jurisdiction meted out 5 convictions for hate crimes in 2017. During 2017, a total of 66 charges were filed for the crime of incitement to violence and hatred as stipulated in Article 325 of the Criminal Code, 24 decisions to reject criminal charges were made, and indictments were raised against 12 persons and a total of 11 convictions were pronounced.

When the public prosecution examines charges and ascertains that there are no elements of a crime, but that there are grounds for some other form of legal action, i.e., misdemeanour procedures, after the decision to waive initiation of criminal prosecution is made. This was in fact done in the case cited in paragraph 48 of the Fourth Opinion on Croatia issued by the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, and with regard to the online call for a boycott of shops and small businesses owned by ethnic Serbs in Vukovar in April 2014. In this case, the public prosecution office with jurisdiction launched misdemeanour procedures against the perpetrators, against the executive editor and reporter, and against the web portal on which the aforementioned call was posted, on grounds of violations of the Anti-discrimination Act. The allegation that this incident occurred “without any legal action being taken by the authorities, apart from a warning by the Agency for Electronic Media” is therefore inaccurate.

In the sense of dedicating special attention to hate crimes and hate speech, it is noteworthy that public prosecution offices participate in a series of activities which contribute to a more effective struggle against hate crimes and hate speech. Thus, among other things, they participate in numerous educational programmes pertaining to hate crimes and hate speech, both as attendees and educators, both those organized by the Judicial Academy and those organized by non-governmental associations and organizations (Zagreb Pride, the Centre for Peace, Non-violence and Human Rights of Osijek, etc.), as well as conferences and round table discussions. The public prosecution of the Republic of Croatia has representatives in the Task Force to monitor the Hate Crimes Protocol.

During 2017, representatives of the public prosecution also participated in meetings held in connection with the visit by representatives of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance of the Council of Europe (ECRI) pertaining to the drafting of the ECRI’s Fifth

Report on Croatia. The deputy public prosecutor participated in a meeting of the Sub-group on Countering Hate Speech Online in Brussels in October 2017. In November 2017, at the invitation of the Croatian Law Centre, the Public Prosecution of the Republic of Croatia joined this centre as a partner in the financing project of the EU Directorate-General for Justice aimed at the prevention and eradication of racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance, REC-RRAC-RACI-AG2017, with the aim of improving the recognition of hate crimes and the corresponding prosecution and sanctioning by the authorities charged to deal with hate crimes.

With reference to Article 7 of the Framework Convention

From the report of the Council for National Minorities

Implementation of amateur cultural production and cultural events through the Council for National Minorities.

Albanians

For persons belonging to the Albanian national minority, the financing of cultural activities continued through the Union of Albanian Communities in the Republic of Croatia as their umbrella organisation, the Shkendija Albanian Cultural Society in Zagreb, the Queen Teuta Club of Albanian Women and the Forum of Albanian Intellectuals in Croatia. In the past period, the programme of amateur cultural production was carried out through Albanian communities organized at the county level, namely, those in the Counties of Zagreb, Istria, Primorje-Gorski Kotar, Zadar, Šibenik, Varaždin, as well as the newly established associations in the Counties of Split-Dalmatia and Osijek-Baranja. For programmes of amateur cultural production and cultural events, Albanian national minority associations were granted a total of HRK 3,580,000,00 during the period under review.

Bosnians

For persons belonging to the Bosniak national minority, cultural activities are carried out within 15 associations, including: Preporod – Cultural Society of Bosniaks in Croatia (Zagreb), Bosniak National Community of Croatia (Zagreb), Bosniak National Community of Croatia in the County of Sisak-Moslavina, Bosniak National Community of Istria (Pula), Bosniak National Community in the County of Primorje-Gorski Kotar (Rijeka), Bosniak National Community of Croatia in the County of Vukovar-Srijem (Vukovar), Bosniak National Community in the City of Zagreb and County of Zagreb (Zagreb), Bosniak National Community of the County of Zadar (Zadar), Sabah – The Union of Bosniak Associations in Croatia (Zagreb), Sevdah Culture Club (Zagreb), Bosna Culture Club of the County of Istria

(Pula), Nur Bosniak Culture Club (Sisak), Behar Bosniak Culture Club (Gunja), Selam Culture Club (Dubrovnik) and Ljiljan Bosniak Culture Club (Drenovci). For programmes of amateur cultural production and cultural events, Bosniak national minority associations were granted a total of HRK 10,053,000.00 during the period under review.

Bulgarians

National Community of Bulgarians in the Republic of Croatia has been established in Zagreb to preserve and promote the cultural, linguistic and national identity of the Bulgarian national minority. The National Community of Bulgarians carries out its information programme by printing the review *Rodna reč* ('Native Word'). As part of its publishing programme, it publishes books dealing with topics from the history of the Bulgarian national minority in Croatia. For programmes of amateur cultural production and cultural events of the Bulgarian national minority, a total of HRK 439,000.00 was allocated during the period under review.

Montenegrins

For persons belonging to the Montenegrin national minority, cultural activities continued within the National Community of Montenegrins in Croatia, as well as through the Montenegro-Montenegrina Democratic Union in Osijek-Baranja County (Osijek) and the Community of Montenegrins in Primorje-Gorski Kotar County (Rijeka). The National Community of Montenegrins in Croatia implemented its programme of amateur cultural production and cultural events by organising art exhibitions and conferences and observing anniversaries important to the preservation of cultural, religious and national identity. For programmes of amateur cultural production and cultural events, Montenegrin national minority associations were granted a total of HRK 3,021,500.00 during the period under review.

Czechs

As the umbrella organisation of the Czech national minority, the Czech Alliance in the Republic of Croatia, with its headquarters in Daruvar, pools the efforts of 30 Czech cultural societies (known as *Beseda*) which, during the period under review, continued with the implementation of their programmes of amateur cultural production and cultural events through the work of drama, folklore, choral and musical groups and the observation of anniversaries important to the preservation of their cultural, religious and national identity. A total of HRK 14,826,000.00 was allocated for their programmes of amateur cultural production during the period under review.

Slovaks

During the past reporting period, the Union of Slovaks in Našice has expanded its cultural activity through the establishment of another two regional community centres (*matica*). The Union of Slovaks presently pools the efforts of four cultural clubs and 16 Slovak community centres, which implemented their programmes of amateur cultural production and cultural events through the work of musical, folklore, traditional and choral groups. A total of HRK 6,513,000.00 was allocated for their programmes in the fields of amateur cultural production and cultural events during the period under review.

Hungarians

For persons belonging to the Hungarian national minority, programmes of amateur cultural production and cultural events are implemented by the Democratic Union of Hungarians in Croatia, which has its seat in Osijek and pools the efforts of 30 cultural associations and clubs, and the Union of Hungarian Associations, which has its seat in Beli Manastir and brings together fewer organizations. For programmes of amateur cultural production and cultural events, the two Hungarian umbrella associations were granted a total of HRK 18,787,000.00 during the period under review.

Macedonians

During the period under review, the programme of amateur cultural production and cultural events for persons belonging to the Macedonian national minority was implemented through the Community of Macedonians in the Republic of Croatia (Zagreb), which carries out the said programme through the efforts of six Macedonian cultural societies including Ohridski biser (Zagreb), Ilinden (Rijeka), Braća Miladinovci (Osijek), Krste Misirkov (Zagreb), Makedonija (Split), Biljana (Zadar) and Sveti Kiril i Metodij (Pula). In addition to exhibitions and events organised to mark Ilinden (i.e. the Feast Day of St. Elias and, at the same time, the anniversary of the 1903 uprising) and other important anniversaries in Macedonian history, all culture societies organise Macedonian Culture Days. For programmes of amateur cultural production and cultural events, Macedonian national minority associations were granted a total of HRK 3,257,000.00 during the period under review.

Germans and Austrians

Persons belonging to the German and Austrian national minorities are organised around 5 non-governmental organizations registered in accordance with the Non-governmental Organizations Act. These include: the Union of Germans and Austrians in Croatia (seated in Osijek), the Community of Germans in Croatia (Zagreb), the German People's

Union/National Association of Danubian Swabians in Croatia (Osijek), the National Union of Germans in Croatia (Zagreb) and the Association of Germans and Austrians (Vukovar). An important role in promoting and fostering German and Austrian identity is played by *Deutsches Wort* ('German Word'), a monthly published in Osijek by the German People's Union with headquarters in that city. During the period under review, a total of HRK 3,175,000.00 was allocated from Croatia's central budget to the associations of the German and Austrian minorities in order to achieve their ethnic rights, implement their media, publishing and amateur cultural activities, and organise their cultural events.

Poles

For persons belonging to the Polish national minority, the programme of amateur cultural production and cultural events has been implemented within two associations, namely, the Mikolaj Kopernik Polish Cultural Association in Zagreb and the Fryderyk Chopin Polish Cultural Association in Rijeka, which bring together members of the Polish national minority with a view to promoting Polish national and cultural traditions, fostering the Polish language and culture and organizing commemorations, events on the occasion of Poland's Independence Day, exhibitions and lectures. For programmes of amateur cultural production and cultural events, the associations of the Polish national minority were granted a total of HRK 506,000.00 during the period under review.

Roma

During the period under review, the programme of amateur cultural production and cultural events for members of the Roma national minority was carried out through 19 associations operating in the territory of several counties. In 2012, the Roma National Council was established with its headquarters in Zagreb. For programmes entailing dissemination of information, publishing and amateur cultural activities and cultural events of the Roma, a total of HRK 2,846,000.00 was allocated during the period under review.

Russians

During the period under review, the programme of amateur cultural production and cultural events was implemented under the National Community of Russians in Croatia, in particular, through the activities of the Ryabinushka Choir as well as events and exhibitions organized to promote the language, culture and traditions of the Russian national minority.

In addition to the National Community of Russians in Croatia and in conformity with the Non-governmental Organizations Act, two additional associations of the Russian national minority are active in Croatia, namely, the Russian Cultural Circle/Society for the Affirmation

and Promotion of Russian Culture (Zagreb) and the Kalinka Russophone Association in Međimurje (Čakovec). During the period under review, a total of HRK 924,000.00 was allocated from Croatia's central budget for implementation of Russian cultural amateur production programmes.

Ruthenians and Ukrainians

Along with the Union of Ruthenians and Ukrainians in the Republic of Croatia, which is headquartered in Vukovar and implements a programme of amateur cultural production and cultural events through the efforts of folklore, music and choral groups, and the Ukrainian Culture Society of Zagreb, there is yet another association active in Croatia, namely, the Ukrainian Community in the Republic of Croatia, which gathers the largest numbers of ethnic Ukrainians with a view to promoting, preserving and enriching the identity and culture of the Ukrainian national minority. For programmes of amateur cultural production and cultural events, the associations of the Ruthenian and Ukrainian national minorities were granted a total of HRK 6,429,500.00 during the period under review.

Slovenes

For persons belonging to the Slovenian national minority, cultural activities are implemented through the Union of Slovenian Associations in the Republic of Croatia, which is headquartered in Zagreb and pools the efforts of the earlier established Slovenian Home Culture Society (Zagreb), the Bazovica Culture and Education Society (Rijeka), the Triglav Slovenian Culture Society (Split), the France Prešern Slovenian Cultural Association (Šibenik), the Lipa Slovenian Cultural Society (Zadar), the Istria Slovenian Cultural Society (Pula), the Snežnik Slovenian Culture Society (Lovran), the Stanko Vraz Slovenian Culture Society (Osijek) and the Slovenian Home Culture Society (Karlovac). For programmes of amateur cultural production and cultural events, Slovenian national minority associations were granted a total of HRK 3,303,000.00 during the period under review.

Serbs

During the period under review, the Prosvjeta Serbian Cultural Society, with its headquarters in Zagreb, intensified its efforts in the field of amateur cultural production and cultural events, which are vital to the preservation of the culture, traditions and language of the Serbian national minority. The Society promotes and fosters the cultural identity of Serbs by implementing programmes of amateur cultural production and cultural events through 52 sub-committees. The associations established to represent the interests of the Serbian national minority include the Prosvjeta Serbian Cultural Society (Zagreb), Serbian Democratic Forum (Zagreb), Serbian National Council (Zagreb), National Council of Serbs (Zagreb) and the

Joint Council of Municipalities (Vukovar). The Serbian National Council in Zagreb is the umbrella organization for members of the Serbian national minority, which implements programmes aimed at building civic trust and culture and regularly publishes a weekly news magazine *Novosti*. For programmes of amateur cultural production and cultural events, Serbian national minority culture societies and associations were granted a total of HRK 45,946,000.00 during the period under review.

Italians

The Italian Union in Rijeka is the central association of the Italian national minority, which brings together nearly 50 Italian communities carrying out cultural programs aimed at preserving and developing their national and cultural identity. A total of HRK 34,475,000.00 was allocated for programmes related to amateur cultural production and cultural events during the period under review. During this period, associations of the Italian national minority were also provided with financial assistance for a programme ensuing from a bilateral treaty with the Republic of Italy. The aforementioned programmes are of particular importance to members of the Italian national minority because they contribute to the promotion of co-operation and unity among the members of that minority.

Jews

For persons belonging to the Jewish national minority, cultural activities are carried out through the Jewish Community in Zagreb, the Miroslav Šalom Freiburger Culture Centre (Zagreb), the Cendo Research and Documentation Centre (Zagreb), the Bejahad Jewish Cultural Scene, the Association of Holocaust Survivors (Zagreb) and the Bet Israel Jewish Religious Community in Croatia. For their programmes of amateur cultural production and cultural events, the associations of the Jewish national minority were granted a total of HRK 1,603,000.00 during the period under review.

With reference to Article 8 of the Framework Convention

From the Report of the Office of the Commission for Relations with Religious Communities

Pursuant to Article 15 of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities, the members of national minorities may establish associations, trusts and foundations in order to preserve, develop, promote and express their national and cultural identities.

According to Article 2 of the Act on the Legal Status of Religious Communities (*Narodne novine*, nos. 83/02 and 73/13), religious communities freely and independently determine their internal organization, managing bodies, their hierarchy and responsibilities, the bodies

and individuals representing the religious community and its organizational forms, the content and manner of professing their faith, the maintenance of relations with their central authority and other religious communities, association with other religious communities, and other matters concerning their activities in compliance with the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia. Religious communities and their organizational forms, when sought by a religious community, and unions of religious communities are entered in the Records of Religious Communities in the Republic of Croatia (hereinafter: Records) maintained by the Ministry of Public Administration in compliance with the Ordinance on Registration Templates and Methods for the Maintenance of the Records of Religious Communities in the Republic of Croatia (*Narodne novine*, nos. 9/03, 12/03, 24/04, 144/10 and 124/12). The Records are maintained in electronic form and the data on registered legal persons are public and accessible online.

The establishment and operation of associations are governed by the Non-governmental Organizations Act (*Narodne novine*, nos. 74/14 and 70/17) and the Ordinance on the Registration Templates and Method for Maintenance of the Register of Associations of the Republic of Croatia and the Register of Foreign Associations in the Republic of Croatia (*Narodne novine*, no. 4/15).

In compliance with the Act on the Legal Status of Religious Communities, the Croatian Government has concluded eight Agreements on Matters of Common Interest, which encompass six churches and religious communities of national minorities in Croatia. The Republic of Croatia has thus created suitable conditions for the expression, preservation and development of their self-identification in the sense of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. The churches and religious communities of national minorities which have concluded Agreements on Matters of Common Interest with the Croatian Government are:

- the Serbian Orthodox Church in Croatia;
- the Islamic Community in Croatia;
- the Bulgarian Orthodox Church in Croatia;
- the Macedonian Orthodox Church in Croatia;
- the Coordinated Jewish Communities in the Republic of Croatia;
- the Bet-Israel Jewish Religious Community in Croatia.

Thus, the rights of national minorities are not only secured by the Constitution and law in compliance with the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, but also elaborated further by the aforementioned agreements. The Act on the Legal Status of Religious Communities and the agreements with churches and religious communities guarantee them the freedom to assemble, associate, express their opinions and profess their

faith, establish institutions, organizations and associations, and offer spiritual guidance in hospitals, welfare institutions, prisons and other correctional facilities, and to the police and armed forces. It is noteworthy that regular financial support from the central budget, the right to provide preschool education in kindergartens and religious instruction in primary and secondary schools, and the conclusion of marriages in religious ceremonies with the same status as civil-law marriages have also been secured.

Below are data on the sums of regular financial support allocated from the central budget in the 2014-2018 period:

		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
1.	Serbian Orthodox Church in Croatia	8,381,152	9,655,708	9,655,708	9,964,386	10,246.710.60
2.	Islamic Community in Croatia	2,554,256	2,942,692	2,942,692	3,036,765	3,122,807.04
3.	Bulgarian Orthodox Church in Croatia	158,372	158,372	158,375	163,437	585,526.32
4.	Macedonian Orthodox Church in Croatia	589,784	679,476	679,476	701,197	433,723.20
5.	Coordinated Jewish Communities in the Republic of Croatia	518,833	551,754	551,754	569,394	168,067.74
6.	Bet-Israel Jewish Religious Community in Croatia	354,756	408,708	408,708	421,773	721,064.82

With reference to Article 9 of the Framework Convention

The media play a crucial role in the promotion of the equality of national minorities, the creation of mutual tolerance, the promotion of coexistence with the majority nation and the preservation of the cultural identity of members of national minorities, and the publicly-funded media are duty-bound to contribute to the promotion and observance of fundamental human rights and freedoms, understanding, respect for diversity, democratic achievements and the development of a culture of dialogue in compliance with their own programming principles.

From the Report of the Agency for Electronic Media

Exercise of the right to access to the public media is exceptionally important to members of national minorities. National minorities have pointed out on numerous occasions the inadequate coverage of events and issues from their lives and work in the public media. In compliance with Article 64 of the Electronic Media Act (*Narodne novine*, nos. 153/09, 84/11, 94/13 and 136/13) and the Ordinance on the Fund for Promotion of Pluralism and Diversity in

the Electronic Media (*Narodne novine*, nos. 150/13, 02/17), the Council for Electronic Media conducts procedures to allocate resources from the Fund for Promotion of Pluralism and Diversity in the Electronic Media. The procedure for the allocation of funding is conducted by means of a public call for proposals, and in compliance with subordinate legislation and the Allocation Programme of the Fund for Promotion of Pluralism and Diversity in the Electronic Media, approved by the Anti-trust Agency. The source of the Fund's finances consists of payments from Croatian Radio-Television, which pays 3% of its monthly sum of collected subscription fees to the Fund's special account.

The Fund's financing encourages production and broadcasting of programming by television and radio broadcasters, non-profit media service providers pursuant to Articles 19 and 79 of the Electronic Media Act, non-profit electronic publication providers and non-profit producers of audio and/or audiovisual content of public interest which is particularly vital for: exercise of the right of citizens to public information, encouragement of cultural diversity and nurturing of the heritage, the development of education, scholarship and the arts, promotion of creativity in dialects of the Croatian language, promotion of special programming in areas of special state concern, national minorities in Croatia, promotion of awareness-raising on gender equality and encouragement of high-quality programming for children and youth aimed at furthering their well-being.

The sources of the Fund's finances consists of payments from Croatian Radio-Television, which pays 3% of its monthly sum of collected subscription fees to the Fund's special account, in compliance with the provisions of the Croatian Radio-Television Act and the Electronic Media Act.

The Council for Electronic Media posted six public calls for financing from the Fund in 2014. Television and radio broadcasters, non-profit media service providers pursuant to Articles 19 and 79 of the Electronic Media Act, non-profit electronic publication providers and non-profit producers of audio and/or audiovisual content of public interest were granted a total of HRK 2,591,112.53 for programmes/broadcasts in the specified category.

The Council posted three public calls for financing from the Fund in 2015. For two public calls, Fund 1/15 and 2/15, allocations were disbursed in 2015, while allocations for Fund 3/15 were disbursed in 2016. The Fund's beneficiaries received a total of HRK 2,038,807.06 in 2015 and HRK 2,866,262.78 in 2016 for the specified category.

Two public calls for allocations from the Fund were posted in 2017. Allocations for Fund 1/17 and 2/17 were disbursed for 2017 and 2018. A total of HRK 1,852,972.00 in 2017 and a total of HRK 1,888,862.91 in 2018 were allocated for the "National Minorities in the Republic of Croatia" category.

In conclusion, for the 2014-2018 period, a total of HRK 11,238,017.28 was allocated to the Fund's beneficiaries for the "National Minorities in the Republic of Croatia" category.

Besides the aforementioned allocations, we note that every year the Agency for Electronic Media organizes education for broadcasters on themes for which they can apply to the Fund. An educational cycle on the theme of "National Minorities in the Republic of Croatia" was held in 2015 and organized by an expert team of Documenta – Centre for Dealing with the Past. Five two-day workshops were held in Zagreb, Split, Lovran and Osijek in which 126 journalists and editors from 80 media concerns participated. These workshops resulted in a manual, "Media Policy and National Minorities in Croatia," an analysis of positive and negative radio and television practices with recommendations, practical advice for work with national minorities, synopses of the programmes devised at the workshops, a list of relevant topics and file and directory of relevant institutions and individuals. This manual can be found at the following link: <http://www.e-mediji.hr/hr/novosti/organizacija-radionica-odabir-teme/>.

We should also note that the Agency's web pages also contain a study, "Analysis of the Social Influence of the Fund for Promotion of Pluralism and Diversity in the Electronic Media," at the link: <http://www.e-mediji.hr/hr/pruzatelj-medijskih-usluga/istrazivanje-i-analize/predstavljeno-istrazivanje-analiza-drustvenog-utjecaja-fonda-za-pluralizam-i-raznovrsnost-elektronickih-medija/>.

From the Report of Croatian Radio-Television

Under the Croatian Radio-Television Act (*Narodne novine*, nos. 137/10 and 76/12), Croatian Radio-Television (hereinafter: HRT) is, in pursuing its programming principles, obliged to produce and/or broadcast programmes dedicated to informing persons belonging to national minorities in the Republic of Croatia.

In October 2017, HRT and the Government of the Republic of Croatia concluded an agreement for the period from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2022, which – *inter alia* – provides for HRT's programming obligations ensuing from Article 9(2)(vi) of the HRT Act, including its obligation to produce, co-produce and broadcast programmes aimed at providing persons belonging to national minorities in the Republic of Croatia with information in their mother tongues, including children's programmes in national minority languages.

Accordingly, the Agreement sets forth HRT's annual obligation to broadcast, on its national radio channels programmes aimed at providing members of national minorities with information in the Croatian language, and to use its regional channels in areas with significant national minority populations for broadcasting a series of additional daily or weekly

programmes in national minority languages (Pula and Rijeka – in Italian; Osijek – in Hungarian and Slovak), including specialised music content. The Knin and Dubrovnik Regional Centres are obliged to broadcast programmes in the Croatian language, dedicated to the Serbian and Bosniak national minorities, respectively.

In its television programming at the national level, HRT airs programmes dedicated to informing national minorities, partly in national minority languages, including the obligation to ensure that its news programmes of regional significance cover issues and problems specific to regionally present national minorities. HRT has undertaken the commitment to ensure that the treatment of national minority themes will not be solely limited to programmes intended for national minorities as the target audience, but will be suitably presented in programmes for the general public with specific efforts to highlight examples of political, social and cultural coexistence between national minorities and the majority nation.

With regard to programming content, the Agreement stipulates that programmes should deal with minority rights and their violation, political participation, employment, activism and education in minority languages, with special focus on preserving and documenting the cultural and traditional customs of national minorities in order to present, in the best possible way, the authentic identity of each of the 22 national minorities in the Republic of Croatia, as well as showcasing work with children belonging to national minorities. Content involving children belonging to national minorities as well as that targeted at them should be presented as part of both radio and television programmes for children and youth. HRT will continue to take care of the education of reporters belonging to national minorities, who can use national minority languages or work on programmes in national minority languages.

HRT's legal obligation to produce and broadcast programmes dedicated to informing national minorities is mostly met through its programmes called *Prizma* (Prism) and *Manjinski mozaik* (Minority Mosaic) as well as its daily news programmes. HRT has been broadcasting *Prizma*, every week in a duration of 45 minutes, for 25 years (without changing its time slot), which has definitely contributed to creating an affirmative environment for national minorities and breaking down a deep-rooted prejudice against minorities in Croatian society. Over many years of its broadcasting, the show has achieved high viewer ratings, which clearly suggests it is regularly followed by the majority population as well.

To ensure that national minority members are provided with as much content as possible in their native languages, Croatian Television launched *Manjinski mozaik* – a 15-minute documentary programme fully broadcast in the language of a particular minority. Its production is funded by HRT. The efforts to meet the needs of national minorities in Croatia have also been made by other programming departments, including the Culture Department (in particular, its Popular and Traditional Culture Desk), the Religious Culture Department, the Children and Youth Department, the Science and Education Department and, to a lesser extent, the Entertainment Department. Croatian Television presents the work and creative endeavours of national minorities through different television formats and genres, music shows, overviews of events and festivals, reports, documentaries, and in live or delayed feeds.

In line with the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities and the Croatian Radio-Television Act, Croatian Radio produces and broadcasts bulletins and programmes for national minorities without using funds from the central budget of the Republic of Croatia. The programme *Multikultura* (Multiculture) is aired on Croatian Radio's Channel One and it is intended to inform national minorities. Minority issues are not only covered in specialized programmes, but also in regular news programmes and daily broadcasts, such as *U mreži Prvoga* (In Channel One's Network), and weekly shows, such as *Isti i različiti* (The Same and Different) and *Civilno društvo* (Civil Society).

Particularly noteworthy are programmes produced by the Religious Department, which fully implement the Agreement on Representation of Non-Catholic Religious Communities on Croatian Radio. Croatian Radio's News Department dedicates great attention to systematic reporting on the lives, problems and activities of national minority members in Croatia and tries to raise public awareness about these issues and help develop a multi-ethnic and tolerant society. In addition to regular specialised programmes, minority issues were dealt with in widest possible range of different programmes – from contact shows to news programmes – in order to avoid ghettoisation and attract as many listeners as possible.

Multikultura is a programme dedicated to the life and endeavours of national minorities in Croatia. It is conceived as a magazine programme, which means that each show comprises, on average, five to six different topical items, mainly dealing with issues related to various minority communities. By taking account of the radio format and, in the first place, the attractive content which is – from the editorial and journalistic perspective – considered interesting to listeners, *Multikultura* presents topics and content related to the activities of the Croatian Government's Council for National Minorities, the Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities, and the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities, as well as other governmental agencies in charge of minority issues and minority associations and institutions as bodies implementing activities and programmes.

Regional radio centres promoted equality as a principle in numerous broadcasts, and themes associated with national minorities were present in their programming. Every last Tuesday of the month, Radio Dubrovnik airs a programme for the Bosniak minority, *Divan* (Council), with a duration of 30 minutes. In a daily programme in the Hungarian language, Radio Osijek covers current events tied to the activities of the Hungarian minority and events in Hungary, accompanied by specialized musical content in the Hungarian language. In the weekly 30-minute programme in the Slovak language, *Slovaci u Hrvatskoj* (Slovaks in Croatia), current events tied to the Slovak minority and events in Slovakia are covered, accompanied by specialized musical content.

Radio Osijek also airs the programme *Mostovi dijaloga* (Bridges of Dialogue) which follows the work of national minority associations and institutions, while minority themes are also covered in other programmes. The programme *Tu pored nas* (In Our Midst) is aired twice monthly by Radio Split. Radio Rijeka airs news bulletins in the Italian language, *Notiziario*, three times a day and the regional daily central news programme *Giornale Radio* and the programme *Susreti* (Encounters) on the activities of the numerous minority religious communities in Rijeka and the County of Primorje-Gorski Kotar. Radio Pula follows the activities national minorities in the territory of Istria in programmes aired in the Italian language, *Notizie*, *Mezzora italiana*, *La Parola del Signore* and *Programma Italiano*, and in the programmes *Duga* (Rainbow), *Istarski kaleidoskop* (Istrian Kaleidoscope) and its morning and afternoon programming.

With reference to Articles 10 and 11 of the Framework Convention

From the Report of the Ministry of Public Administration

Equality in the official use of national minority languages and scripts is regulated by the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia, the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities and the Act on the Use of Languages and Scripts of National Minorities. The Croatian language and Latin script are in official use in the Republic of Croatia, pursuant to Article 12 of the Constitution, while in certain local units, another language and the Cyrillic or other script may be introduced pursuant to the criteria prescribed by law.

Article 10 of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities stipulates that persons belonging to national minorities are entitled to freely use their language and script both privately and publicly, including the right to post signs, markers and other information in the language and script they use in compliance with law.

Furthermore, Article 12 of the Constitutional Act provides for the exercise of equality in the official use of a national minority language and script in a local governmental unit in which persons belonging to a national minority comprise a minimum of one third of the population. This same provision stipulates that equality in the official use of a national minority language and script is also exercised when so mandated by international treaties which, pursuant to the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia, form a part of the internal legal order of the Republic of Croatia or when so stipulated for by the charter of a local government or by the charter of a regional government in accordance with the provisions of a special law on the use of national minority languages and scripts in the Republic of Croatia.

As already stated above, this involves enforcement of the Act on the Use of Languages and Scripts of National Minorities in the Republic of Croatia, which thoroughly stipulates the remaining criteria for the official use of the languages and scripts used by the members of national minorities.

The provisions of Articles 8, 9, 10 and 11 of the aforementioned Act regulate the following: the operations of municipal and city councils, and county assemblies in the Croatian language and Latin script and a national minority language and script in equal official use; bilingual and multilingual composition of the texts of stamps and emblems in the same size script; composition of sign boards of representative, executive and administrative bodies of municipalities, towns and counties, and legal persons vested with public authority in the same size script; delivery of bilingual or multilingual materials for sessions to a councillor and to a member of an executive body; compilation of minutes and public posting of conclusions and publication of official notifications and summons of the representative, executive and administrative bodies of these units; issuing of public (bilingual or multilingual) documents to citizens and printing of templates for official purposes; composition of (bilingual or multilingual) traffic signs and other traffic markers, and street and square names and designations of geographic sites; and the right of persons belonging to national minorities to use the language and script that is in equal official use in first-instance and appeal proceedings before the administrative bodies of municipalities, towns and counties.

Articles 12-19 of the aforementioned Act stipulate, *inter alia*, the following: the rights of persons belonging to national minorities to equality in the official use of their national minority languages and scripts in procedures before first-instance state administrative bodies with offices and branch offices in municipalities, towns and counties where both the Croatian language and the Latin script and a national minority language and script are in equal official use, and further also stipulates that that first-instance state administrative bodies with offices and branch offices in municipalities, towns and counties where both the Croatian language and the Latin script and a national minority language and script are in equal official use, at the request of a citizen, must compose issue bilingual or multilingual public documents and printed templates for official purposes, and that that first-instance state administrative bodies with offices and branch offices in municipalities, towns and counties where both the Croatian language and the Latin script and a national minority language and script are in equal official use, compose bilingual or multilingual texts of stamps and emblems in the same size script, official signs and official document letterheads in the same size script.

The Republic of Croatia, as a signatory to the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (*Narodne novine* [international treaties edition], no. 18/97), is committed to the recognition, respect, promotion and protection of regional or minority languages.

We furthermore stress that, in compliance with the Instructions for Consistent Implementation of the Act on the Use of Languages and Scripts of National Minorities, which was adopted in March 2012, municipalities and cities in which persons belonging to a national minority account for a minimum of one third of the population and which, pursuant to the Act, are obliged to ensure that their charters prescribe and regulate the right to equal official use of a national minority language and script throughout their territories, are obliged to thoroughly stipulate the exercise of said right and explicitly specify each individual right guaranteed by the Act in the territory of these units in their charters.

The Ministry of Public Administration conducted the appropriate analysis of data from the 2011 Population Census and compiled a list of local units in which the members of specific national minorities account for a minimum of one third of the population and which, pursuant to Article 12(1) of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities, are obliged to regulate the exercise of the right to official use of the minority language and script in their territory.

Based on this analysis, it was ascertained that the members of specific national minorities account for one third of the local populations in a total of 27 units, as follows: members of the Serbian national minority in 23 units and members of the Czech, Hungarian, Slovak and Italian national minorities in one unit each. Thus, in compliance with Article 12(1) of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities, the right of the Serbian national minority to the equal use of their language and script is guaranteed in the towns of Vrbovsko and Vukovar and in the municipalities of Biskupija, Borovo, Cijlpane, Donji Kukuruzari, Dvor, Erdut, Ervenik, Gračac, Gvozd, Jagodnjak, Kistanje, Krnjak, Markušica, Negoslavci, Plaški, Šodolovci, Trpinja, Udbina, Vojnić, Vrhovine and Donji Lapac; the exercise of this right by the Czech national minority is guaranteed in the Končanica Municipality; by the Hungarian national minority in the Kneževi Vinogradi Municipality; by the Slovak national minority in the Punitovci Municipality and by the Italian national minority in the Grožnjan/Grisignana Municipality.

MINORITY LANGUAGE	TERRITORY (MUNICIPALITIES AND TOWNS)	SHARE OF NATIONAL MINORITY IN UNIT'S POPULATION
Czech	Končanica Municipality	47.03%
Hungarian	Kneževi Vinogradi Municipality	38.66%
Slovak	Punitovci Municipality	36.94%
Serbian	Town of Vrbovsko	35.22%
	Town of Vukovar	34.87%
	Biskupija Municipality	85.46%
	Borovo Municipality	89.73%
	Cijlpane Municipality	78.66%

MINORITY LANGUAGE	TERRITORY (MUNICIPALITIES AND TOWNS)	SHARE OF NATIONAL MINORITY IN UNIT'S POPULATION
	Donji Kukuruzari Municipality	34.82%
	Dvor Municipality	71.9%
	Erdut Municipality	54.56%
	Ervenik Municipality	97.19%
	Gračac Municipality	45.16%
	Gvozd Municipality	66.53%
	Jagodnjak Municipality	65.89%
	Kistanje Municipality	62.22%
	Krnjak Municipality	68.61%
	Markušica Municipality	90.1%
	Negoslavci Municipality	96.86%
	Plaški Municipality	45.55%
	Šodolovci Municipality	82.58%
	Trpinja Municipality	89.75%
	Udbina Municipality	51.12%
	Vojnić Municipality	44.71%
	Vrhovine Municipality	80.23%
	Donji Lapac Municipality	80.64%
Italian	Grožnjan/Grisignana Municipality	39.4%

In order to obtain suitable insight into the status of alignment of local charters, during 2014 the Ministry of Public Administration, through the state administrative offices in the counties, sought and gathered data on the statutory regulation of the exercise of the right to equal use of national minority languages and scripts in 27 units which are obliged to align their characters with the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities and the Act on the Use of Languages and Scripts of National Minorities. An analysis of the gathered data showed that 10 local units fully aligned their charters with the appropriate legal provisions; the charters of 12 units contained only a general provision on the right to equal use of a national minority language and script, without a detailed breakdown of the exercise of each individual right as stipulated by the Act on the Use of Languages and Scripts of National Minorities; 5 local units did not regulate the exercise of these rights in their charters. Consequently, during 2015 these units were asked to deliver data on the alignment of their charters with the provisions of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities and the Act on the Use of Languages and Scripts of National Minorities.

In response to the Ministry's request that they align the charters with the regulations on the equal use of national minority languages and scripts, individual units, which had not until then aligned their charters with the provisions governing the equal official use of national minority languages and scripts (e.g., the town of Vrbovsko and the municipalities of Plaški and Punitovci), fulfilled their obligation to align their charters with the relevant provisions of the Constitutional Act.

We note in particular that at a session of its municipal council held on 7 March 2017, the Plaški Municipality adopted the Decision to Amend the Plaški Municipal Charter and in an oversight procedure pertaining to this decision, the State Administrative Office of the County of Karlovac ascertained that the decision was made in compliance with the provisions of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities and the Act on the Use of Languages and Scripts of National Minorities. Furthermore, in the town of Vrbovsko, the Decision to Amend the Charter of the Town of Vrbovsko on 30 September 2015 stipulates the equal official use of the language and script of the Serbian national minority, which ensures composition of sign boards of the town's representative, executive and administrative bodies and legal persons vested with public authority and issuing of public documents and printing of templates used for official purposes in the Croatian language and Latin script and in the Serbian language and Cyrillic script. Any councillor in the Vrbovsko Town Council, member of the town's executive body or citizen who belongs to the Serbian national minority is entitled to delivery of materials for sessions of the Town Council, the compilation of minutes and public posting of conclusions and the release of official notifications and summons of the town's representative, executive and administrative bodies in the Croatian language and Latin script and in the Serbian language and Cyrillic script. The members of the Serbian national minority have been granted the same rights in first-instance and appeals proceedings before the town's administrative bodies and first-instance proceedings before state administrative bodies. Furthermore, the aforementioned Decision specifies the sections of the town, i.e., neighbourhoods therein, in which the composition of traffic signs and other traffic markers, street and square names and designations of geographic sites in the Croatian language and Latin script and in the Serbian language and Cyrillic script in the same size is guaranteed.

The Decision to Amend the Charter of the Punitovci Municipality of 14 September 2015 regulates the rights of persons belonging to the Slovak national minority in a separate chapter under the heading "Protection of the Indigenous Rights of the Slovak National Minority and Its Members in the Territory of the Punitovci Municipality."

The Gračac Municipality declared that no amendments were made to the Charter and that during the compilation of the Report on Implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities for 2017, it reported that Article 57, indent 5 of the Municipal Charter only generally prescribes the equal use of national minority languages and scripts,

i.e., it stipulates that national minority councils and representatives in the Gračac Municipality have the right, *inter alia*, to equal use of national minority languages and scripts in compliance with law, but this provision is rather vague, and no mention is made of the national minority to which it pertains nor is there any breakdown of the manner in which these rights and bilingualism in the real sense may be exercised.

With reference to the Vukovar City Charter, we note that at a session held on 17 August 2015 the Vukovar City Council, in compliance with the Constitutional Court Rulings of 12 August 2014, adopted the Decision to Amend the Vukovar City Charter and the Decision on Exercise of Equal Use of the Serbian National Minority Language and Script. The Serbian National Minority Council of the City of Vukovar expressed the view that these decisions are contrary to the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia, the Constitutional Act and the Act on the Use of Languages and Scripts of National Minorities.

Based on a filing submitted by the Croatian Parliament's Committee on Human Rights and National Minority Rights, in 2016 a case was initiated before the Constitutional Court to assess the compliance of individual provisions of the aforementioned decisions with the Constitution and law. The Constitutional Court of the Republic of Croatia alone is authorized to review the compliance of these statutory acts with the Constitution and law and, if it ascertains that they do not comply, rescind them.

We should also note that every year the Ministry of Public Administrations compiles a report on enforcement of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities under its jurisdiction and within this framework it gathers data and continually monitors the equal official use of national minority languages and scripts.

Based on the data provided in 2017, it may be concluded that in the preceding period local units fulfilled their obligation to align their own characters with the relevant legal provisions governing the right to equal official use of national minority languages and scripts, whether it was a matter of complete alignment of their own charters with the relevant legal provisions or simply the stipulation of general provisions in their charters on the right to equal official use of national minority languages and scripts.

We should also note that in individual units in which the legal condition for the introduction of equal official use of national minority languages and scripts does not exist, i.e., a minimum of one third of the population does not belong to a national minority, this right was regulated by the local charters for the territory of the entire unit or simply for individual settlements inside these units. The following units reported on this: County of Istria (Italian), cities/towns: Poreč/Parenzo, Pula/Pola, Buje/Buie, Novigrad/Cittanova, Rovinj/Rovigno, Umag/Umago, Vodnjan/Dignano (Italian), Daruvar (Czech), and the municipalities of Bale/Valle,

Brtonigla/Verteneglio, Funtana/Fontane, Fažana/Fasana,
 Kaštelir/Labinci/Castelliere/S.Domenica, Ližnjan/Lisignano, Motovun/Montona,
 Oprtalj/Portole, Tar Vabriga/Torre Abrega, Višnjan/Visignano, Vižinada/Visinada,
 Vrsar/Orsera (Italian), Dežanovac (Czech), Ernestinovo (Hungarian), Bilje, Tordinci
 (Hungarian), Kneževi Vinogradi (Hungarian and Serbian) and Bogdanovci (Ruthenian).

From the Report of the Ministry of Justice

Use of minority languages and scripts in the justice system

The Ministry of Justice, on the basis of data collected by the courts, maintains records on judicial proceedings regarding the application of Article 12 of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities. Subsequently, it established the relevant database. Data are provided below showing the use of national minority languages and scripts introduced in equal official use before first-instance judicial bodies for the 2014-2017 period. The data for 2018 will be available at the beginning of 2019. In 2014, 37 cases were conducted in a national minority language. The total number of cases in which the parties waived this right is 443.

County and municipal courts

No cases were conducted in the county courts in 2014 that could be held in a minority language, while such cases in any municipal court were only conducted in Rovinj. A total of 37 cases were conducted in a minority language (Italian), of which 3 were civil cases, 13 were extra-judicial proceedings and 21 were probate hearings. In 125 cases the parties waived the right to have them conducted in the Italian language, specifically in 23 civil cases, 33 extra-judicial proceedings, 49 probate hearings and 20 land registry proceedings.

Misdemeanour courts

At the misdemeanour courts there were no cases in 2014 conducted in minority languages, while in 318 cases the parties were offered this option but they declined this right every time. At the Misdemeanour Court in Vukovar, there were no cases conducted in a minority language, although in 236 cases the parties were offered this option although they declined (in cases the parties were offered the option of having them conducted in the Hungarian language, in 13 cases in the Ruthenian language, in 1 case in the Ukrainian language and in 220 cases in the Serbian language). At the Misdemeanour Court in Vinkovci, there were no cases conducted in a minority language, although in 5 cases the parties were offered this option in the Hungarian language, in 1 case in the Czech language and in 32 cases in the Serbian language, but they all waived this right. At the Misdemeanour Court in Pula no cases

were conducted in a national minority language, and in 23 cases the parties declined the right to hearings in a minority language, Italian in 7 cases and Serbian in 16 cases. At the Misdemeanour Court in Rovinj, there were no cases conducted in a minority language, although in 15 cases the parties declined the right to have the case conducted in the Italian language. At the Misdemeanour Court in Osijek, there were no cases conducted in a minority language, although in 1 case the parties were offered the option of having the case conducted in the Hungarian language and in Serbian in two cases. At the Misdemeanour Court in Vrbovec there were also no cases conducted in any minority language, while the right to have cases conducted in the Serbian language was declined in 3 instances.

In 2015, the judiciary conducted a total of 6 proceedings in a national minority language, which was a decline in comparison to 2014, when 37 cases were conducted in a national minority language. The total number of cases in which the parties waived this right is 190, which also constitutes a decline in relation to 2014, when there were 443 such cases. During this year, there was a reorganization of the network of municipal and misdemeanour courts, so the presented data pertain to the newly-created jurisdictions, or general courts.

County and municipal courts

There were no cases before the county courts in 2015 that were or could have been conducted in a minority language, while in the municipal courts such cases were only conducted in Pula. There, a total of 6 cases were conducted in a minority language (Italian), of which 4 were civil cases, 1 an extra-judiciary proceeding and 1 a land registry proceeding. In 4 civil cases, the parties waived the right to have them conducted in the Italian language.

Misdemeanour courts

There were no cases conducted in a minority language in the misdemeanour courts in 2015, and in 186 cases the parties declined the use of a minority language in their cases.

At the Misdemeanour Court in Vukovar, there were no cases conducted in a minority language. Parties were offered the option of using the Hungarian language in 2 cases, Ruthenian in 1 case and Serbian in 145 cases, but all parties waived this right. At the Misdemeanour Court in Vinkovci (which was an independent court until 30 June 2015, and thereafter became a permanent service of the Misdemeanour Court in Vukovar), there were also no cases conducted in minority languages, but in 15 cases in which conduct of the cases in the Serbian language was offered, the parties waived this right.

At the Misdemeanour Court in Pula no cases were conducted in a national minority language, but in 7 cases the parties were offered the option of conducting the cases in the Italian

language, and in Serbian in 3 cases. At the Misdemeanour Court in Rovinj and the Misdemeanour Court in Umag (which were independent courts until 30 June 2015, and thereafter became a permanent service of the Misdemeanour Court in Pula) there were also no cases conducted in minority languages. At both courts, the option of conducting cases in the Italian language was offered (8 cases in Rovinj and 1 case in Umag), but all of the parties waived this right. At the Misdemeanour Court in Osijek, there were no cases conducted in a minority language, although in 4 cases the parties declined the option of conducting them in minority languages (1 in Ukrainian, 3 in Serbian).

In 2016, a total of 47 cases were conducted in minority languages before the judicial authorities, which constitutes a significant increase in comparison to 2015, when 6 cases were conducted in national minority languages. The total number of cases in which parties waived this right was 43, which is a decline in comparison to the preceding year, when there were 190 such cases.

County and municipal courts

There were no cases before the county courts that were or could have been conducted in a minority language, while in the municipal courts such cases were only conducted in Pula. There, a total of 6 cases were conducted in a minority language (Italian), of which 4 were civil cases, and 2 were criminal cases. A party waived the right to conduct of a case in the Italian language in one civil case.

Misdemeanour courts

There were a total of 41 cases before misdemeanour courts in 2016 that were conducted in minority languages, while in 41 cases the parties waived the right to have them conducted in a minority language. At the Misdemeanour Court in Pula, 10 cases were conducted in the Italian language, and the same number of parties waived the right to use of the Italian language. At the Misdemeanour Court in Vukovar, 30 cases were conducted in the Serbian language and 1 in the Ruthenian language. Also, in 30 cases the parties were offered the option of having the case conducted in the Serbian language and in Ruthenian in 1 case, but the parties all waived this right.

In 2017, a total of 25 cases were conducted in minority languages before the judicial authorities, which constitutes a decline in comparison to the preceding year, when 47 cases were conducted in national minority languages. The total number of cases in which parties waived this right was 21, which is also a decline in comparison to the preceding year, when there were 43 such cases.

County and municipal courts

There were no cases before the county courts in 2017 that were or could have been conducted in a minority language.

There were a total of 8 cases before the municipal courts in 2017 that were conducted in a minority language, while in 5 cases the parties waived the right to have the cases conducted in a minority language. At the Municipal Court in Pula, a civil case was conducted in the Italian language, while in 3 cases the parties waived the right to have the case held in the Italian language (in one criminal and in one civil case, and in one extra-judicial proceeding). At the Municipal Court in Sisak, 2 criminal cases were conducted in the Hungarian language, while at the Municipal Court in Virovitica 1 criminal case was also conducted in the Hungarian language. At the Municipal Court in Zlatar, 1 criminal case was conducted in the Ruthenian language. At the Municipal Court in Zlatar 3 criminal cases were conducted in the Ukrainian language, while the right to have their cases conducted in the Serbian language was waived by the parties in 2 cases.

Misdemeanour Courts

There were a total of 17 cases before misdemeanour courts in 2017 that were conducted in minority languages, while in 16 cases the parties waived the right to have them conducted in a minority language. At the Misdemeanour Court in Pula, 5 cases were conducted in the Italian language, and the same number of parties waived the right to use of the Italian language. At the Misdemeanour Court in Vukovar, 12 cases were conducted in the Serbian language, while in 11 of them the parties waived the right to conduct the cases in the Serbian language.

With reference to Articles 12, 13 and 14 of the Framework Convention

From the Report of the Ministry of Science and Education

Instruction in and about minority languages

The Croatian Government shall continue to improve cooperation with representatives of national minorities in the field of education in national minority languages and scripts and it shall secure the participation of representatives of national minorities in the future development of curricular documents within the Comprehensive Educational Reform, which pertains to persons belonging to national minorities (Models A, B and C).

Under Article 86 of the Regulation on Internal Organization of the Ministry of Science and Education (*Narodne novine*, no. 86/17), a new organizational unit was formed within the Ministry of Science and Education, the Independent Sector for National Minorities, which performs the administrative and expertise-based tasks of planning, monitoring and improving pre-school, elementary, secondary and higher education, adult education and education in national minority languages and scripts, and with reference to the Roma national minority, in compliance with the National Strategy for Roma Inclusion and the accompanying Action Plan, it performs administrative and expertise-based tasks tied to ensuring the implementation of laws and other regulations within its purview.

The sector implements strategic documents and action plans, compiles reports and conducts analyses, prepares and plans measures in the field of education and instruction in national minority languages and scripts, performs administrative and expertise-based tasks tied to the preparation of draft legislation and draft regulations in those facets pertaining to education and instruction in national minority languages and scripts and performs tasks tied to granting of consent for the introduction of programmes to hire teachers, initiates operations pertaining to the further training of teachers in curricula for education in national minority languages and script, as well as (Roma) teaching assistants and their further training, participates in procedures to secure textbooks and state-level testing in national minority languages, coordinates assignments and cooperates with other administrations in those areas pertaining to analytical and statistical operations for reports on implementation of national programmes and to international documents dealing with national minorities, and particularly reports on enforcement of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities, implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, the National Strategy for Roma Inclusion, etc., coordinates international projects and use of allocations from European Union funds and others for education of persons belonging to national minorities, cooperates with state administrative offices in the counties and the bodies of local and

regional governments charged with education, performs administrative and expertise-based tasks tied to the planning of necessary funding in the central budget for individual activities (specific subsidiary line-items), proposes criteria for the allocation of budgetary funding and performs oversight of expenditure statements, and performs administrative and expertise-based tasks tied to the drafting of expert opinions on queries and submissions.

The Independent Sector also performs other tasks within its purview. The Independent Sector consists of the Unit for the Education in National Minority Languages and Scripts and the Unit for National Programmes, Action Plans, International Projects and International Cooperation.

Article 87 of the aforementioned Regulation stipulates that the Unit for the Education in National Minority Languages and Scripts shall perform the administrative and expertise-based tasks of planning, monitoring and improving pre-school, elementary, secondary and higher education, adult education and education in national minority languages and scripts and administrative and expertise-based tasks to ensure the enforcement of laws and other regulations under its purview. It shall implement strategic documents and action plans, compile reports and conduct analyses, prepares and plans measures in the field of education in national minority languages and scripts, performs administrative and expertise-based tasks tied to the preparation of draft legislation and draft regulations in those facets pertaining to education in national minority languages and scripts and performs tasks tied to granting of consent for the introduction of programmes to hire teachers, initiates operations pertaining to the further training of teachers in curricula for education in national minority languages and script, as well as (Roma) teaching assistants and their further training, participates in procedures to secure textbooks and state-level testing in national minority languages, coordinates assignments and cooperates with other administrations in those areas pertaining to analytical and statistical operations for reports on implementation of national programmes and to international documents dealing with national minorities, and particularly reports on enforcement of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities, implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, the National Strategy for Roma Inclusion, etc., coordinates international projects and use of allocations from European Union funds and others for education of persons belonging to national minorities, cooperates with state administrative offices in the counties and the bodies of local and regional governments charged with education, performs administrative and expertise-based tasks tied to the planning of necessary funding in the central budget for individual activities (specific subsidiary line-items), proposes criteria for the allocation of budgetary funding and performs oversight of expenditure statements, and performs administrative and expertise-based tasks tied to the drafting of expert opinions on queries and submissions. The unit also coordinates the process of recognition of as-yet unrecognized national minorities and drafts curricula on the language, culture and scripts of these minorities.

Within the framework of the Comprehensive Curriculum Reform with which implementation of the Education, Science and Technology Strategy (as published in *Narodne novine* 124/14) commenced in 2015, the following were developed: the Draft Czech Language Curriculum for primary and secondary school with instruction in the Czech language and script (Model A), Draft Serbian Language Curriculum for primary and secondary school with instruction in the Serbian language and Cyrillic script (Model A), Draft Italian Language Curriculum for primary and secondary school with instruction in the Italian language and script (Model A), the Draft Curriculum to Nurture the Czech Language and Culture in primary and secondary schools in the Republic of Croatia (Model C), the Draft Curriculum to Nurture the Serbian Language and Culture in primary and secondary schools in the Republic of Croatia (Model C), and the Draft Curriculum to Nurture the Language and Culture of the Roma National Minority in primary and secondary schools in the Republic of Croatia (Model C). The development of the drafts for these documents involved the participation of 35 appointed members of expert working groups.

All Curricula and Programmes currently being used to conducted education under Model C for 14 national minorities in primary and secondary schools in the Republic of Croatia have been positively assessed by the Education and Teacher Training Agency, which means that they passed the approval procedure. Until the adoption of new National Curricula for the needs of education of national minority pupils under Model C, education will continue to be conducted according to the existing programmes.

The Ministry of Science and Education will support the initiative to have the relevant minority languages become a lecture subject in primary and secondary schools in towns and municipalities in which a national minority language is in equal official use, in compliance with the Act on the Education in Languages and Scripts of National Minorities and the Primary and Secondary Education Act.

Membership in the European Union has facilitated Croatia's participation in the use of the financial instruments of the European Economic Area (EEA) and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism. In April 2014, after signing the Memorandum of Understanding, the Republic of Croatia became the sixteenth EU member state to begin using the aforementioned financial mechanisms. During the aforementioned programme period, the "Establishment of the Intercultural School in Vukovar" project of the Ministry of Science and Education, which commenced in December 2014, is also being co-financed. The project is being financed in a total sum of approximately € 2 million from the instruments of the European Economic Area and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism, as well as Croatia's central budget.

The general objective of the project is to facilitate the social recovery of multi-ethnic communities in the aftermath of conflicts and to achieve a higher level of understanding, respect and cooperation between minority groups and the majority population. In order to achieve this aim, the primary-level Danube Intercultural School was established, with the City of Vukovar as its founder, and an intercultural curriculum was developed, which secured a high consensus from all project stakeholders and passed through a public consultation process, for the purpose of better meeting the educational needs of multi-ethnic and multicultural communities. The school building in Borovo Naselje was renovated and equipped. The total value of the investment in this first phase is HRK 16 million.

The promoter of the Intercultural School project in Vukovar is the Ministry of Science and Education, the school's founder is the City of Vukovar, and the project is being implemented in partnership with the Education and Teacher Training Agency and the Nansen Dialogue Centre, an NGO from Osijek. The project's programme operator is the Ministry of Regional Development and European Union Funds.

All preliminary work for the commencement of the 2018/2019 academic year has been done. The school should nurture intercultural dialogue, appreciate ethnic and cultural differences, promote the wealth of common life and learning through cultural encounters, ensure openness to expression and nurturing ethnic, cultural and other specificities and promote and encourage cooperation, tolerance and the culture of peace.

Education in national minority languages and scripts

Introduction

Education in national minority languages and scripts is an integral part of the overall educational system, and the educational policy's fundamental documents apply to this segment of the educational system as well.

The right of persons belonging to national minorities to education in their languages and scripts is primarily stipulated by the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia (*Narodne novine*, nos. 56/90, 135/97, 8/98, 113/00, 124/00, 28/01, 41/01, 55/01, 76/10, 85/10 and 05/14), the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities (*Narodne novine*, nos. 155/02, 47/10, 80/10, 93/11) and especially by the Act on the Education in Languages and Scripts of National Minorities (*Narodne novine*, nos. 51/00 and 56/00). The Ordinance on Completion of the School-leaving Examination (*Narodne novine*, nos. 97/08, 127/10 and 1/2013) provides for the possibility of taking the examination in a national minority language and script, or in the language and script in which persons belonging to a national minority were educated. In 2008, the Anti-discrimination Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 85/08) was passed, and it also applies

to the field of education. In November 2012, the National Strategy for Roma Inclusion together with the Action Plan for its implementation were adopted. One of the Croatian Government's objectives going forward is to continue improving the existing level of protection of national minority rights, which is why that it has undertaken the commitment to prepare operational programmes for national minorities in cooperation with the representatives of national minorities, in line with previously aligned priorities. Consequently, in 2017 the Croatian Government adopted the Operational National Minorities Programmes for the 2017-2020 period, which will specify the mechanisms to protect the rights of national minorities and support the activities of their associations pursuant to the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities and other special legislation.

Minority languages and their representation in education in national minority languages

The education of persons belonging to national minorities is performed in pre-school, primary, secondary and higher educational institutions with education in national minority languages and scripts in compliance with the criteria specified in the Act on the Education in Languages and Scripts of National Minorities and other legislation governing education. The languages in which education is conducted may, according to the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages or the resolution confirming ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, be classified as either regional or minority languages or as non-regional minority languages.

Education is conducted in the following regional or minority languages: Italian, Serbian, Hungarian, Czech, Slovak, Ruthenian, and Ukrainian.

The territories where languages are used in various forms of education are:

County of Istria: Italian;

County of Primorje-Gorski Kotar: Italian and Serbian;

County of Bjelovar-Bilogora: Czech and Slovak;

County of Osijek-Baranja: Serbian, Hungarian, Ukrainian and Ruthenian;

County of Vukovar-Srijem: Serbian, Hungarian, Ukrainian, Ruthenian and Slovak;

County of Lika-Senj: Serbian.

Non-regional minority languages in regular or special forms of education are: Albanian, Bosnian, Hebrew, Macedonian, German, Romani, Russian, and Slovenian.

The Italian national minority has a curricular structure in which the minority language is learned as the language of the local community. The members of the Roma national minority have special programmes for inclusion into the educational system.

The participants in special forms of education (summer/winter schools, correspondence-consultative instruction, etc.) with the support of the Ministry of Science and Education in the preceding period (from the 2013/2014 to 2017/2018 academic years) included persons belonging to the Czech national minority, Hungarian national minority, Macedonian national minority, Polish national minority, Roma national minority, Ruthenian national minority, Serbian national minority and Ukrainian national minority.

Models and forms of education in national minority languages and scripts

The education of national minorities in their languages and scripts is conducted according to special curricula and models, which, pursuant to the aforementioned Act, the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports confirms and also grants approvals for individual forms of education in cooperation with national minority representatives.

There are three models in the Croatian educational system according to which education is organized and performed in national minority languages, namely:

- Model A – all instruction in national minority languages and scripts, or all instruction is conducted in the minority language and script with mandatory learning of the Croatian language in the same number of school hours as the minority language. This model is implemented in special educational institutions where all instruction is held in a national minority language or in special classrooms in Croatian-language institutions.
- Model B – bilingual instruction, so that the natural sciences are taught in the Croatian language, while the social science curriculum is taught in a national minority language. This model is implemented in special classrooms in Croatian-language educational institutions.
- Model C – instruction on a minority language and culture (fostering), so that along with regular instruction in Croatian, instruction is held in a national minority language in the national minority language and culture which is implemented in two to five school hours each week, encompassing instruction on the national minority language and literature, geography, history, music and arts.

Special forms of education (summer/winter schools, correspondence/consultative instruction, distance learning, and other) are primarily organized for pupils where there is no possibility of organizing regular instruction according to models A, B or C. The Ministry of Science, Education and Sports co-finances the organization and execution of special forms of education.

The curriculum for regular instruction in models A, B and C is provided by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports after receiving opinions from minority associations pursuant to

Article 6 of the Act on the Education in Languages and Scripts of National Minorities. Persons belonging to national minorities suggest and select a model and curriculum pursuant to the currently existing law, and according to the interests of pupils and the available human resources.

Application of models and forms of education in national minority languages and scripts

Under Model A, primary and secondary education is provided for the Italian, Serbian, Hungarian national minorities, and also for the Czech national minority in primary schools.

Under Model B, the Czech, Hungarian and the Serbian national minorities are educated in primary schools and the Czech national minority in secondary schools.

Under Model C, primary school education is provided for the Albanian, Czech, Serbian, Slovak, Slovenian, Hungarian, Macedonian, German and Austrian, Ukrainian, Ruthenian, Russian, Jewish and Polish national minorities, while secondary schools education is provided for the Czech, Macedonian, Hungarian, Russian, Slovak, Slovenian, Serbian, and Italian national minorities.

Since the academic year 2015/2016, secondary school students belonging to the Macedonian and Hungarian national minorities are education under Model C, and as of the 2016/2017 academic year, pupils of the Albanian national minority have also been encompassed under this model.

Special programmes for inclusion into the educational system have been designed for persons belonging to the Roma national minority, while the Italian minority enjoys an educational form in which their minority language is learned as the language of the local community.

Special forms of education (summer/winter schools, correspondence-consultative instruction, etc.) conducted with the support of the Ministry of Science and Education in the preceding five-year period (from the 2013/2014 to 2017/2018 academic year) in 33 seven-day summer schools encompassed 2,858 participating pupils who belong to the Czech, Hungarian, Macedonian, Polish, Roma, Ruthenian, Serbian and Ukrainian national minorities. HRK 2,858,768.00 from the central budget under the Ministry of Science and Education line-item were spent for these summer schools.

Overview of education of children and pupils belonging to national minorities in the Republic of Croatia

In the 2017/2018 academic year, education in primary and secondary schools in national minority languages and scripts under all models (A, B and C) encompassed a total of 10,663 pupils (5,118m/5,545f) in 235 educational institutions, 1,098 classes/groups and 1,579 pre-school/primary/secondary school teachers.

In the same academic year, Model A in primary schools encompassed 3,777 pupils in 34 primary schools, in 318 classes with 800 teachers. Secondary schools, according to Model A, had 1,184 pupils in 11 secondary schools in 137 classes with 387 teachers.

Model B was applied in three (3) primary schools in the 2017/2018 academic year with 74 pupils (Hungarian and Serbian), and in one (1) secondary school with 19 pupils (Czech national minority), in 19 classes with 44 teachers.

Model C in primary education in the 2017/2018 academic year encompassed 3,308 pupils in 135 primary schools, in 486 educational groups with 145 teachers. Instruction was organized for pupils belonging to fourteen (14) national minorities – the Albanian, Czech, Hungarian, Macedonian, German, Austrian, Polish, Russian, Ruthenian, Slovak, Slovenian, Serbian, Ukrainian and Jewish national minorities.

Model C in secondary schools encompassed 344 pupils in 19 secondary schools, in 43 educational groups with 19 teachers. Instruction was organized for pupils belonging to nine (9) pupils belonging to the Albanian, Czech, Hungarian, Macedonian, Slovenian, Slovak, Serbian, Russian and Italian national minorities.

Data on education in national minority languages and scripts for the 2017/2018 academic year

Czech national minority

170 children in pre-school, 3 kindergartens, 8 educational groups, 16 pre-school teachers

308 pupils, 3 primary schools, 25 classes, 51 teachers (Model A)

466 pupils, 17 primary schools, 57 educational groups, 16 teachers (Model C)

Models A and C in primary schools included a total of 744 pupils

19 pupils in one secondary school, 3 classes, 2 teachers (Model B)

45 pupils in 5 secondary schools, 5 educational groups, 4 teachers (Model C)

Models B and C in secondary schools included a total of 64 pupils

A total of 1,008 children/pupils were included in the educational vertical.

The Jednota publishing company supplies the needs of the Czech national minority. There is a Czech language and literature department at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb. Teachers are educated in the Czech Republic and Croatia.

Hungarian national minority

156 children in pre-school, in 4 kindergartens, 6 educational groups, 12 pre-school teachers

143 pupils, 4 primary schools, 22 classes, 58 teachers (Model A)

59 pupils in 2 primary schools, 13 classes, with whom 28 teachers work (Model B)

706 pupils, 27 primary schools, 125 educational groups, 27 teachers (Model C)

Models A, B and C in primary schools included a total of 908 pupils

33 pupils in 1 secondary school, in 11 classes, with 29 teachers (Model A)

6 pupils in 1 secondary school, in 2 educational groups, with 1 teacher (Model C)

Models A and C in secondary schools include 39 pupils

A total of 947 pupils in the educational vertical.

Students can major in the Hungarian language undergraduate programme at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of Josip Juraj Strossmayer University in Osijek, and also enrol in the Hungarian language and literature graduate programme (specializing in teaching or communications).

Serbian national minority

470 children in pre-school, in 10 kindergartens, 23 groups, 45 pre-school teachers

1,620 pupils, 16 primary schools, 155 classes, 364 teachers (Model A)

15 pupils, 1 primary school, 4 classes, 14 teachers (Model B)

716 pupils, in 34 primary schools, 138 educational groups, 55 teachers (Model C)

A total of 2,351 pupils in primary schools according to models A, B and C

633 pupils, 6 secondary schools, 62 classes, 208 teachers (Model A)

57 pupils, 3 secondary schools, 8 classes, 3 teacher (Model C)

A total of 690 pupils in secondary schools according to models A and C

A total of 3,511 pupils in the educational vertical.

The Prosvjeta Serbian Culture Society provides the needs of the Serbian national minority, while textbooks for the needs of education in the Serbian language and Cyrillic script are printed by the Prosvjeta publishing company in Zagreb.

Italian national minority

1,161 children in pre-school, 15 kindergartens, 57 educational groups, 111 pre-school teachers (Model A)

1,706 pupils, 11 primary schools, 116 classes, 327 teachers (Model A)

518 pupils, 4 secondary schools, 64 classes, 150 teachers (Model A)

20 pupils, 1 secondary school, 4 educational groups, 1 teacher (Model C)

A total of 538 children/pupils in secondary schools under Models A and C

A total of 3,405 children/pupils in the educational vertical.

The Juraj Dobrila University in Pula offers the pre-school education vocational study programme (in the Croatian and Italian languages) and the integrated undergraduate and graduate university study programme for a teaching-oriented curriculum (in Croatian and Italian).

The Edit publishing company, which works for the needs of this national minority, prints newspapers, magazines and other publications in the Italian language, as well as textbooks for the needs of education in the Italian language and script and bilingual pedagogical documents.

Albanian national minority

193 pupils in seventeen (17) primary schools, in 34 educational groups, 15 teachers (Model C)

23 pupils in one secondary school, 1 educational group, with 1 teacher (Model C)

Total of 216 pupils in 17 primary schools and one secondary school.

Macedonian national minority

79 pupils in seven (7) primary schools, in 12 educational groups, 5 teachers (Model C)

25 pupils in two (2) secondary schools, in 4 educational groups, with 2 teacher

Total of 104 pupils in 7 primary schools and 2 secondary schools.

German and Austrian national minority

139 pupils in two (2) primary schools, in 9 educational groups, 2 teachers (Model C)

Polish national minority

34 pupils in one (1) primary school, in 2 educational groups, 1 teacher (Model C)

Ruthenian national minority

90 pupils in three (3) primary schools, in 14 educational groups, 4 teachers (Model C)

Russian national minority

147 pupils in five (5) primary schools, in 13 educational groups, 4 teachers (Model C)

Slovak national minority

500 pupils in fourteen (14) primary schools, in 59 educational groups, with 7 teachers (Model C)

79 pupils in two (2) secondary schools, in 7 educational groups, 2 teachers (Model C)

Total of 579 pupils in 14 primary and 2 secondary schools.

Teachers are trained in Slovakia and Croatia.

Slovenian national minority

121 pupils in four (4) primary schools, in 7 educational groups, 4 teachers (Model C)

65 pupils in three (3) secondary schools, in 8 educational groups, 4 teachers (Model C)

Total of 186 pupils in 4 primary and 3 secondary schools.

Ukrainian national minority

42 pupils in three (3) primary schools, in 8 educational groups, 3 teachers (Model C)

Jewish national minority

75 pupils in one (1) primary school, in 8 educational groups, 2 teachers (Model C).

Roma national minority

Implementation of measures and activities to achieve the objectives of the National Strategy for Roma Inclusion resulted in significant progress in the field of education of children belonging to the Roma national minority by including them at all levels of the educational system. The Ministry of Science and Education continually makes efforts to achieve the defined tasks and measures, bearing in mind the complexity and comprehensiveness of the set objectives to improve the education of persons belonging to the Roma national minority,

including the education of children in early childhood but also in primary, secondary and higher education and adult education.

Activities pertaining to the education of children belonging to the Roma national minority were implemented in the preceding period with the objective of raising the quality and effectiveness of education of children belonging to the Roma national minority and ensuring their acquisition of the necessary knowledge and skills that will facilitate the personal development of pupils, as well as the completion of primary education with the aim of continuation their schooling and reducing the discrepancies between educational outcomes of children belonging to the Roma national minority and the average level of educational outcomes of all pupils in primary education in the Republic of Croatia.

Further progress was made in the area of inclusion of children and pupils of the Roma national minority at all levels of the educational system during 2017. Inclusion in pre-school education programmes has been secured for children belonging to the Roma national minority in order to bridge the gap between the socio-economic situation in which Roma children live and the opportunities for their successful integration during their mandatory primary education. The visible increase in the number of children included in preschool education/preschool programmes has yielded sound results and indicates the need for mandatory organization of preschool educational groups for all children of the Roma national minority.

The measures suit the need to ensure access to a high-quality and inclusive educational system in early childhood which aims to reduce initial inequalities, eliminate discrimination, reduce the challenges encountered by children from vulnerable social groups and promote the emotional, social, psychological and physical development of all children.

Since 2013, implementation of the activities and measures to achieve the aims of the National Strategy for Roma Inclusion has notably achieved significant positive progress in the field of education of persons belonging to the Roma national minority, which has been particularly apparent in the preschool education of persons belonging to the Roma national minority and in their secondary education. It is apparent from the data that the number of pupils included in secondary education is growing from year to year. This inevitably points to the conclusion that the success of pupils in primary education has grown, and that the awareness of continuing education has also grown and that sustainable measures in education must be continued.

At the beginning of the 2016/2017 academic year, pre-school education included a total of 1,118 (600m/518f) children, which was an increase in comparison to the 2015/2016 academic year, when there was a total of 1,026 (513m/513f) children. At the beginning of the

2017/2018 academic year, there was a total of 1,020 children, of whom 488 were encompassed by pre-school education, and 532 in primary school preparation programmes.

A slight drop in the number of Roma pupils has been noted in primary education. Thus, there were 5,420 pupils (2,740m/2,680f) belonging to the Roma national minority enrolled at the beginning of the 2015/2016 academic year, 5,263 (2,640m/2,623f) at the beginning of the 2016/2017 academic year, and 5,134 at the beginning of the 2017/2018 academic year.

Ensuring after-school care is exceptionally important since this is a prerequisite for the successful completion of primary education. There were 318 pupils (169m/149f) enrolled at the beginning of the 2015/2016 academic year, and a total of 282 (130m/152f) at the beginning of the 2016/2017 academic year. Over and above after-school care, we stress that pursuant to Article 43 of the Primary and Secondary Education Act, special assistance in learning the Croatian language was also secured in the 2016/2017 academic years. At the beginning of the 2016/2017 academic year, a total of 403 pupils (196m/207f) received special assistance in learning the Croatian language.

The Ministry of Science and Education secures learning of the Croatian language, i.e., it ensures overtime work for classroom Croatian language teachers to provide special assistance in learning the Croatian language for pupils who do not know or have limited knowledge of the Croatian language, and who work with Roma pupils.

The work of 24 teaching assistants (13m/11f) is financed from the central budget, as is the work of all other staff in schools. The Roma assistants, together with teachers, must help pupils complete their homework during after-school care and master the school programme.

The growing trend in the number of Roma pupils incorporated into the secondary education system continued in the preceding period (from 2014 to 2018). Thus, 746 pupils (406m/340f) were enrolled in secondary school programme at the beginning of the 2015/2016 academic year, while 820 (433m/387f) were enrolled at the beginning of the 2016/2017 academic year. Even though the number of pupils who continue their education in three-year secondary school programmes is higher than those in four-year programmes, growth in the number of pupils enrolled in the first year of four-year schools is visible. In 2016, an increase in the number of secondary school scholarship beneficiaries was noted.

The Ministry of Science and Education provides scholarships to all regular secondary school pupils belonging to the Roma national minority in an amount of HRK 5,000.00 annually per pupil, i.e., HRK 500 per month during the school year. In the 2016/2017 academic year, 689 pupils (373m/316f) belonging to the Roma national minority received scholarships.

Besides secondary school scholarships and accommodation in dormitories, through the National Trust for the Maintenance of Pupil and Student Living Standards, scholarships for 19 students (11m/8f) were also secured in 2016. Implementation of adult literacy and vocational training programmes continued in 2016, and 382 persons belonging to the Roma national minority were included in them.

The greatest challenges continue to be ensuring the acquisition of the necessary knowledge and skills to complete primary education with the aim of further schooling, the development of a network of schools and enrolment areas and striking a balance between the number of Roma pupils in comparison to other pupils, including the overall infrastructure which depends on education and the further encouragement of inclusion in secondary education, with the promotion of continuation and completion of schooling.

Summer schools and other special forms of education in national minority languages

With the support of the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, national minority associations organize summer schools and other group activities every year for pupils belonging to national minorities.

Special forms of education (summer language and culture schools) with the support of the Ministry of Education and Science in the preceding five-year period (from the 2013/2014 to the 2017/2018 academic years) in 33 summer schools encompassed 2,858 pupils belonging to the Czech, Hungarian, Macedonian, Polish, Roma, Ruthenian, Serbian and Ukrainian national minorities. A total of HRK 2,858,768.00 from the central budget in the Ministry of Science and Education line-item was allocated for these summer schools.

Textbooks for instruction in national minority languages and scripts

Pursuant to Article 15 of the Act on the Education in Languages and Scripts of National Minorities, schools offering education in national minority languages and scripts use textbooks from native countries primarily for learning a mother tongue (Czech, Hungarian, Serbian, and Italian languages, but also for other subjects), with the approval of the Ministry of Science and Education.

Pursuant to Article 16 of the Act on the Education in Languages and Scripts of National Minorities, the funds needed to co-finance the publication of textbooks for education in national minority languages and scripts are provided so that the price of textbooks is the same for the parents of children who are educated in national minority languages and scripts as the price of textbooks for the parents of children who are educated in Croatian.

In the preceding five-year period (2014-2018), the Ministry of Science and Education allocated HRK 6,496,021.02 to cover the costs of financing textbooks and accompanying lecture materials for primary and secondary school pupils who are being educated in national minority languages and scripts.

National minority	Minority publisher	Disbursed in 2014 (HRK)	Disbursed in 2015	Disbursed in 2016	Disbursed in 2017	Disbursed in 2018 (until July)
Czech national minority	Jednota Daruvar	37,300.00	-	-	36,589.29	143,320.07
Hungarian national minority	Hungarian Education & Culture Centre, Osijek	246,762.60	-	-	-	-
Serbian national minority	Prosvjeta, Zagreb	1,104,771.00	1,097,143.61	665,532.06	1,211,087.00	650,000.00
Italian national minority	EDIT, Rijeka	-	74,558.39	608,946.00	600,000.00	-
	TOTAL	1,388,833.60	1,171,702.00	1,274,478.06	1,847,676.29	793,320.07 *

* The specified sum (for 2018) was spent for textbooks up to the end of July.

Curricula

Within the framework of the Comprehensive Curriculum Reform with which implementation of the Education, Science and Technology Strategy (as published in *Narodne novine* 124/14) commenced in 2015, expert working groups were established to develop the curricula for instruction in national minority languages and scripts.

As a part of the Comprehensive Curriculum Reform for early and pre-school, primary and secondary education, in the first half of 2016 the following materials were developed:

- Draft National Curriculum for the course subject Italian language/Italian language and literature for the needs of education of the Italian national minority under Model A
- Draft National Curriculum for the course subject Czech language for the needs of education of the Czech national minority under Model A
- Draft National Curriculum for the course subject Serbian language for the needs of education of the Serbian national minority under Model A
- Draft National Curriculum for the course subject Czech language and culture for the needs of education of the Czech national minority under Model C

- Draft National Curriculum for the course subject Serbian language and culture for the needs of education of the Serbian national minority under Model C
- Draft National Curriculum for the course subject language and culture of the Roma national minority developed for two equal modules, Romani (romani čhib) and Bayash Romani (Ijimba dă băjaš).

The draft curricula were sent for peer review (13 reviewers), and based on these assessments the expert working groups refined the documents. This modification will be followed by public debate, translation and an international peer review of the ensuing documents.

Furthermore, in September 2017 the Curriculum for the Bosnian language and culture (Model C) for education of pupils belonging to Bosniak national minority in primary and secondary schools in the Republic of Croatia was developed.

Teacher training

The professional development of primary and secondary school teachers for instruction in national minority languages and scripts is continually implemented, and the training of teachers is under the purview of the Agency for Education and Teacher Training. At the level of pre-school, primary and secondary education, among other things the Agency for Education and Teacher Training organizes and implements the vocational training of teaching staff and renders assistance and issues instructions to them.

Over the preceding period, the Agency for Education and Teacher Training organized 199 vocational seminars for 5,213 teachers who hold instruction in national minority languages and scripts, as follows: 45 seminars for 1,631 teachers in the 2013/2014 academic year, 34 seminars for 1,179 teachers in the 2014/2015 academic year, 40 seminars for 1,383 teachers in the 2015/2016 academic year, 40 seminars for 911 teachers in the 2016/2017 academic year, and 40 seminars for 1,020 teachers in the 2017/2018 academic year. The funding for the vocational seminars was secured through cooperation between the Agency for Education and Teacher Training, the Ministry of Science and Education and the founders of the schools, which refund the costs of participation of teachers in vocational seminars to the schools.

Overall financial indicators

Over the preceding five-year period (2014-2018), a total amount of HRK 54,458,724.07 was allocated from the central budget of the Republic of Croatia for the needs of educational programmes and instruction in national minority languages and scripts, specifically to finance the following activities:

- National minority education incentives (A577131);

- Special education programmes for implementation of national minority programmes (A577137);
- Implementation of National Strategy for Roma Inclusion;
- Roma pre-school education and primary school preparation programme incentives (A767015)
- Implementation of the National Programme for Roma (A767003) – work of pre-schools
- Education of children belonging to national minorities (A578003) in compliance with Article 50 of the Pre-school Education Act.

Growth of funding for the National Strategy for Roma Inclusion is apparent, because the number of beneficiaries of pre-schools and integrated pre-school education grew.

ACTIVITIES	Disbursed in 2014 (HRK)	Disbursed in 2015	Disbursed in 2016	Disbursed in 2017	Disbursed in 2018 (until July)	TOTAL
A 578003 – Education of children belonging to national minorities	1,338,200.00	1,707,250.00	1,742,750.00	1,756,100.00	992,700.00	7,537,000.00
A 577131 – National minority education incentives	1,388,833.60	1,191,713.00	1,274,478.06	1,847,676.29	793,320.07	6,496,021.02
A 577137 – Special education programmes for implementation of national minority programmes	1,241,822.30	966,601.20	721,880.09	766,008.94	621,434.22	4,317,746.75
A 767003 – Implementation of National Programme for Roma	4,374,052.27	4,532,879.94	4,054,627.88	3,488,411.44	2,397,100.00	18,847,071.53
A 767015 – Roma pre-school education and primary school preparation programme incentives	2,221,975.26	2,477,499.36	4,371,735.51	4,794,141.92	3,395,532.72	17,260,884.77
TOTAL	10,564,883.43	10,875,943.50	12,165,471.54	12,165,471.54	8,200,087.01*	54,458,724.07

* The specified sum (for 2018) was spent up to the end of July.

Over the preceding five-year period (from the 2013/2014 to 2017/2018 academic years), a total of HRK 94,083,632.80 was disbursed from the central budget of the Republic of Croatia for the salaries of teachers of native languages and cultures (under Model C).

In the preceding five-year period, the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities has been implemented to a very high degree. Education of pupils in courses entirely conducted in national minority languages and scripts under Model A is being successfully implemented, while an increasing number of pupils in secondary schools are being incorporated into the study of national minority languages and cultures under Model C.

Education of pupils in instruction under Models A, B and C is being successfully implemented in Croatia. An increasing number of primary school pupils are opting for study of native languages and cultures under Model C. Thus, in the 2017/2018 academic year, there were 93 more pupils in Model C than in the preceding year.

As of the 2015/2016 academic year, instruction in the Macedonian and Hungarian languages and cultures under Model C commenced in two secondary schools. As the 2016/2017 academic year, instruction in the Albanian language and culture under Model C commenced in one school.

One of the Croatian Government's objectives is to continue improving the existing level of protection of national minority rights, which is why it has undertaken the commitment to prepare operational programmes for national minorities in cooperation with their representatives, and in compliance with previously aligned priorities. Consequently, in 2017 the Croatian Government adopted the Operational Programmes for National Minorities for the 2017-2020 period, which specify the mechanisms for ensuring national minority rights and support to the operations of their bodies, in compliance with the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities and other special regulations.

The Croatian Government shall conduct an analysis of education policy with regard to the contribution of national minorities to Croatia's politics, culture, arts, economy and society in general with the aim of incorporating the names of persons belonging to national minorities in Croatian history, as well as the facts tied to their contributions, into cultural, educational and other policies in future educational reforms.

The Croatian Government shall, in compliance with the Act on Regulated Professions and Foreign Professional Credentials Certification (*Narodne novine*, no. 82/15), undertake measures to recognize higher educational qualifications acquired in other European Union member states to conduct instruction in the appropriate subjects in schools with instruction in the Italian language and in all schools in local units which recognize bilingualism. Pursuant

thereto, the Ministry of Science and Education shall conduct the procedure to certify foreign professional qualifications for all persons who completed their education outside of Croatia, for the purpose of access to and engagement in the occupation of teacher/instructor/teaching assistant in educational institutions in the Republic of Croatia.

The Amendments to the Primary and Secondary School Education Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 152/2014) have facilitated the conveyance of founder's rights to local units in the territory of the County of Vukovar-Srijem, the municipalities of Borovo, Negoslavci and Makušica (in which the majority population is Serbian), over schools in which instruction is conducted in the Serbian language and Cyrillic script under Model A.

By assuming the founder's rights, these municipalities, working together with the schools, will have the possibility of participating in the development of charters, which are crucial to the pre-registration of Serbian national minority schools. At the beginning of 2018, the science and education minister issued the Decision on Appointment of the Task Force for Analysis of Problems Confronted by Schools in the Danubian Region in which national minority language and script programmes are being implemented. The Task Force is charged with analysing existing problems in schools in the Danubian region in which national minority languages and script programmes are being implemented and proposing models for their solution.

In 2016, the Danube Intercultural Primary School was established, with the City of Vukovar as its founder, and an intercultural curriculum was developed, which secured a high consensus from all project stakeholders and passed through a public consultation process, for the purpose of better meeting the educational needs of multiethnic and multicultural communities. The school building in Borovo Naselje was renovated and equipped. The total value of the investment in this first phase is HRK 16 million.

The promoter of the Intercultural School project in Vukovar is the Ministry of Science and Education, the school's founder is the City of Vukovar, and the project is being implemented in partnership with the Education and Teacher Training Agency and the Nansen Dialogue Centre, an NGO from Osijek. The project's programme operator is the Ministry of Regional Development and European Union Funds. The Danube Intercultural School in Borovo, with its multicultural curriculum, should differ from all existing schools in Vukovar. The school should nurture intercultural dialogue, appreciate ethnic and cultural differences, promote the wealth of common life and learning through cultural encounters, ensure openness to expression and nurturing ethnic, cultural and other specificities and promote and encourage cooperation, tolerance and the culture of peace.

All preliminary tasks for the beginning of the 2018/2019 academic year have been completed.

During implementation of the Comprehensive Curriculum Reform with which implementation of the Education, Science and Technology Strategy (as published in *Narodne novine* 124/14) commenced in 2015, expert working groups were established to develop the curricula for instruction in national minority languages and scripts.

Within the framework of the Comprehensive Curriculum Reform for early and pre-school, primary and secondary education, in the first half of 2016 the following materials were developed:

- Draft National Curriculum for the course subject Italian language/Italian language and literature for the needs of education of the Italian national minority under Model A
- Draft National Curriculum for the course subject Czech language for the needs of education of the Czech national minority under Model A
- Draft National Curriculum for the course subject Serbian language for the needs of education of the Serbian national minority under Model A
- Draft National Curriculum for the course subject Czech language and culture for the needs of education of the Czech national minority under Model C
- Draft National Curriculum for the course subject Serbian language and culture for the needs of education of the Serbian national minority under Model C
- Draft National Curriculum for the course subject language and culture of the Roma national minority developed for two equal modules, Romani (romani čhib) and Bayash Romani (Ijimba dă băjaš).

The draft curricula were sent for review, and based on these assessments the expert working groups began refining the documents in October 2017. This modification will be followed by public debate, translation and an international review of the ensuing documents.

Furthermore, in September 2017 the Curriculum for the Bosnian language and culture (Model C) was developed for education of pupils belonging to Bosniak national minority in primary and secondary schools in the Republic of Croatia.

During the 2017/2018 academic year, the Ministry of Science and Education fulfilled all of its commitments and secured textbooks for primary and secondary school pupils who are being educated in national minority languages and scripts.

Co-financing has been secured for the production of textbooks (in the Czech, Hungarian, Serbian and Italian languages) which match the relevant curricula, and for translation of a considerable number of textbooks needed for primary and secondary education. All requests for approval of native language and culture educational programmes under Model C are being

positively resolved, and the corresponding amount of work hours to engage teachers is also being approved.

The Ordinance on Educational Documentation and Records and Public Documents in Schools (*Narodne novine*, no. 47/2017) was adopted in 2017. The Ordinance stipulates use of the Record Logs of Pupils in Native Language and Culture Instruction (Model C) as educational documentation.

In compliance with the measures from the National Strategy for Roma Inclusion until 2020, the scope of Roma children in integrated pre-school education and primary school preparation programmes has been expanded, and the number of pupils encompassed in primary and secondary school education has increased. Co-financing for the parental share for children belonging to the Roma national minority encompassed in integrated pre-school education has been secured.

Teachers who conduct instruction in national minority languages and scripts are continually educated and trained in Croatia, and they may also enrol in training in their mother country of their respective nations. Such additional training is also recognized for advancement to the profession of counsellor and mentor.

The number of pupils receiving education in national minority languages is variable, the decline in the number of pupils has been reduced, and the number of participants among certain minorities has exhibited a slight growth. The number of pupils in Model A has noticeably declined, while a certain increase in the number of pupils in Model C has been observed.

The National Educational Standards (*Narodne novine*, nos. 63/08 and 90/2010) allow pupils belonging to national minorities to select the most suitable educational mode. Instituting these standards in schools has ensured greater flexibility in the organization of instruction which may be conducted in a single shift.

Pupils in classics gymnasiums and four-year secondary schools who attend lectures in national minority languages and scripts take the national school-leaving examination in their native language.

In compliance with Article 4 of the Ordinance for Taking the National School-Leaving Examination (*Narodne novine*, no. 1/2013), pupils who belong to the Czech, Hungarian, Serbian and Italian national minorities and who are attending education in national minority languages and scripts must take the examination in the national minority language in which they are being educated in the mandatory section of the national school-leaving examination

with an examination in the Croatian language course, while they choose between mathematics or a foreign language as their third examination in the mandatory section of the national school-leaving examination. By way of exception, pupils undergoing education in language and script of the Czech national minority may take the mandatory section of the national school-leaving examination pursuant to paragraphs (1) or (3) of that same article, i.e., they may take the Croatian language, mathematics and foreign language text as part of the mandatory section or choose the same selection offered to other national minorities.

In the implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities in that section that pertains to education, as well as the Act on the Education in Languages and Scripts of National Minorities, there are no open matters that are not currently in a resolution phase. The Ministry of Science and Education is continually improving the relevant conditions and quality.

With reference to Article 15 of the Framework Convention

From the Report of the Ministry of Public Administration

Representation of persons belonging to national minorities the Croatian Parliament

Article 15 of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia stipulates that the equality of all national minorities in Croatia is guaranteed and it furthermore stipulates that besides general suffrage, the law may also guarantee persons belonging to national minorities the right to elect their own representatives to the Croatian Parliament.

With reference to the representation of national minorities and their participation in decision-making at the national level, Article 16 of the Act on Election of Representatives to the Croatian Parliament stipulates that Croatia guarantees persons belonging to national minorities in Croatia the right to representation in Parliament. Persons belonging to national minorities in Croatia are entitled to elect eight members to Parliament who are elected in a separate constituency that covers the entire territory of the Republic of Croatia.

Furthermore, Article 17 of the same law stipulates that persons belonging to the Serbian national minority elect three members to Parliament in compliance with the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities, the Hungarian national minority elects one member to Parliament, the Italian minority elects one member to Parliament, the Czech and Slovak minorities jointly elect one member to Parliament, the Austrian, Bulgarian, German, Polish, Roma, Romanian, Ruthenian, Russian Turkish, Ukrainian, Vlach and Jewish national minorities jointly elect a member to Parliament, and the Albanian, Bosniak, Montenegrin, Macedonian and Slovenian national minorities jointly elect one member to Parliament.

With regard to the representation of national minorities and their participation in decision-making at the national level, it is particularly important to underscore that persons belonging to national minorities have continually, from 1991 onward, had a guaranteed and secured number of seats in the Croatian Parliament and they enjoy the right to decision-making and participation in decision-making pursuant to a series of other regulations which they exercise accordingly.

Representation of persons belonging to national minorities in local and regional representative and executive bodies

Pursuant to Article 20 of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities, persons belonging to national minorities are guaranteed the right to representation in the representative bodies of local and regional governments, namely, municipalities, towns and counties, and this right may be regulated by the charters of such governments in compliance with Article 21 of the Act. Representation of national minorities in representative bodies of local units is governed by the Local Elections Act.

Article 103 of the Act stipulates that representation of national minorities in local and regional representative bodies is determined pursuant to the provisions of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities, while determination of the number of persons belonging to a national minority in a given unit's representative body is based on the official census results.

Article 104 further stipulates that the number of members of a representative body from among the persons belonging to a specific national minority is determined by multiplying the share of individual national minorities in the total population of the unit with the number of members of a representative body of the unit, and the result so obtained is rounded to nearest whole number. Insofar as a minority that accounts at least 5% of the total population of a unit does not achieve the proper representation in a representative body as stated above, such minority has the right to one member of a representative body, and prior to each local election the central state bodies authorised for general administrative affairs shall post on their web sites data on the number of members of a unit's representative body who are elected from among the persons belonging to a specific national minority.

Article 105 stipulates that, together with the representation specified in Article 103, persons belonging to national minorities also exercise the right to representation in a representative body in those units where, regardless of the share of persons belonging to national minorities in the total population, the right to representation of persons belonging to national minorities in a representative body is stipulated by the charter of said unit.

In the regular local elections held on 21 May 2017, persons belonging to national minorities were guaranteed the right to elect 310 members to representative bodies in a total of 156 local and regional units. Broken down by minorities, persons belonging to the Serbian minority had the guaranteed right to elect 203 members to representative bodies; persons belonging to the Italian minority had the right to elect 39 members; persons belonging to the Hungarian minority had the right to elect 18 members; persons belonging to the Bosniak and Roma national minority had the right to elect 13 members; persons belonging to the Czech national minority had the right to elect 12 members; persons belonging to the Slovak national minority

had the right to elect 7 members; persons belonging to the Ruthenian national minority had the right to elect 3 members; and persons belonging to the Albanian and Ukrainian national minorities had the right to elect 1 member each.

Since the adequate representation of the Serbian national minority in the municipal councils of Lasinja and Polača and of the Roma national minority in the municipal councils of Petrijanec, Kotoriba and Podturen were not secured in the regular local elections, the Croatian Government issued the Decision on Supplemental Elections for National Minority Members of the Representative Bodies of Local Governments in these municipalities (*Narodne novine*, no. 84/17). The election date as per this Decision was scheduled for 1 October 2017.

In the by-elections held on 1 October 2017, one representative of the Serbian national minority was elected to the Polača Municipal Council, and one Roma representative each was elected to the Petrijanec and Podturen Municipal Councils. Since candidate slates were not received in the Lasinja and Kotoriba Municipalities, supplemental elections were not held there. Thus, in these elections, a total of 308 members as guaranteed by law and charters were elected to representative bodies in a total of 154 units.

Representation of persons belonging to national minorities in the executive bodies of local and regional governments

Article 22 (1) of the Constitutional Act stipulates that the representatives of national minorities are entitled to representation in a local or regional executive body if they achieve proportional representation in the corresponding representative body. Thus, persons belonging to national minorities in the municipalities and towns in which they account for over 15% of the population, as well as in those counties in which they account for over 5% (right to proportional representation in local representative bodies), are entitled to representation in executive arms of local governments of those units.

Article 41a of the Local and Regional Government Act stipulates that in units in which the right to representation of persons belonging to a national minority in an executive body is exercised pursuant to the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities, one municipal deputy chief, deputy mayor, or deputy prefect will be elected from among the ranks of national minorities in the manner stipulated by the law governing elections to an executive body. In units in which persons belonging to one of the national minorities account for a majority of the population, persons of Croatian ethnicity are entitled to representation in an executive body under the conditions specified for national minorities. In units in which a municipal chief official, mayor, or deputy county prefect is elected from among the ranks of national minorities or the Croatian people, the number of deputies is increased by one.

In accordance with Articles 41a (4) and (5) of the same Act, in local and regional governmental units in which a municipal chief official, mayor, or deputy county prefect is elected from among the persons belonging to national minorities pursuant to the law governs elections to an executive body, the number of deputies is increased by one, provided that in the local and regional governmental units in which more than one national minority exercises the right to municipal chief official, mayor, or deputy county prefects, a deputy is elected from among the persons belonging to each of those national minorities, in which case the number of deputies is increased by one deputy belonging to each of those national minorities that exercise the right to a deputy.

Furthermore, persons belonging to national minorities also exercise the right to representation in an executive body in those units where, regardless of the share of persons belonging to national minorities in the total population of the unit, the right to representation of persons belonging to national minorities in an executive body is stipulated by the given unit's charter.

The election of a municipal chief official, mayor, or deputy county prefect belonging to national minorities is regulated by Article 112(1) of the new Local Elections Act, which Article stipulates that a municipal chief official, mayor, or deputy county prefect from among the persons belonging to national minorities is elected directly in elections held by secret ballot with a four-year term of office, at the same time, in the same manner and under the same procedure that applies for a municipal chief official, mayor, or county prefect.

In the 2017 local elections, persons belonging to national minorities, pursuant to the Act and their charters, were entitled to nominate and elect candidates for a total of 61 municipal chief officials, mayors, or deputy county prefects, in a total of 60 local and regional governmental units, or in exactly 49 municipalities and towns as well as in 11 counties. Broken down by minority, persons belonging to the Serbian minority had the right to nominate candidates and elect 39 deputies; persons belonging to the Italian minority 7 deputies; persons belonging to the Czech and Hungarian minorities 4 deputies each; persons belonging to the Bosniak, Roma and Ruthenian minorities 2 deputies each; and persons belonging to the Slovak minority one deputy, or a representative in an executive body of a municipality, town or county.

In the elections, a total of 49 municipal chief officials and deputy mayors were elected as well as 12 deputy county prefects from among persons belonging to national minorities, by which the right in question to representation in executive bodies was achieved in total.

Representation of persons belonging to national minorities in the administrative bodies of local and regional governments

Article 22(3) of the Constitutional Act stipulates that national minorities are ensured representation in administration in local and regional governments, pursuant to the provisions of a special law that regulates local and regional governments and other laws governing employment policy and in compliance with established rights. Article 22(4) stipulates that priority is accorded under equal conditions to national minorities when filling posts in the administrative bodies of local units.

Article 56a(1) of the Local and Regional Government Act stipulates that persons belonging to national minorities who, pursuant to the provisions of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities, have the right to proportional representation in local and regional representative bodies, also have the right to representation in the corresponding local and regional administration.

Article 56a(2) of that same Act stipulates that local and regional governments are obliged to implement a policy for recruiting new civil servants, or civil servants who fill vacancies, in a manner that will ensure respect for the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. Furthermore, Article 9 of the Act on Local and Regional Civil Servants and Public Employees (*Narodne novine*, nos. 86/08, 61/11 and 4/18), stipulates that the civil service recruitment plan shall ascertain the current level of occupancy of workplaces in local administrative bodies, the necessary number of full-time civil servants and public employees for the period to which the plan pertains and the number of planned trainees with the proper qualifications and vocations. The recruitment plan determines, among other things, the filling of posts in administrative bodies by persons belonging to national minorities and specifies the hiring of the required number of persons belonging to national minorities with the aim of achieving representation pursuant to the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities and the law that regulates local and regional governmental systems.

Article 19(9) and (10) of the same Act stipulates, among other things, that when announcing vacancies, local governments with administrative bodies in which representation of national minorities has not been met in compliance with the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities are obliged to indicate this in the text of their announcement, and to indicate that the candidates are obliged to invoke that right in their applications, and also that a candidate belonging to a national minority has priority over other candidates only under equal conditions.

It should be stressed that the obligation to adopt recruitment plans, i.e. the obligation to employ persons belonging to national minorities in administrative bodies of local units,

pursuant to the Constitutional Act and the Local and Regional Government Act, applies only to those municipalities and towns in which persons belonging to minorities account for more than 15% of the population, as well as those counties in which minorities account for more than 5%, or units that have the obligation to ensure a proportional representation of persons belonging to minorities in a representative body.

The effectiveness of hiring of persons belonging to national minorities, along with the adoption of recruitment plans by units, also depends on the applications of persons belonging to minorities for vacancy announcements, their invocation of priority in employment, fulfilment of the requirements for the job position to be filled, the results of their testing and personal interview. In compliance with the Local and Regional Civil Servants and Public Employees Act, candidates who have priority in hiring according to special legislation, including persons belonging to national minorities, have such priority in relation to the remaining candidates under equal conditions, which means that, besides meeting all formal criteria from the vacancy announcement, they must achieve the same number of points as the candidate with the highest number of points after the completion of testing and interview.

According to the records of the Ministry of Public Administration, on 31 December 2017, there was a total of 13,744 civil servants and public employees working in local and regional administrative bodies, of whom 455, or 3.31%, were persons belonging to 22 national minorities, 252, or 1.83%, were undeclared, and 6, or 0.042%, declared themselves as Muslims. For the sake of comparison, in relation to 31 December 2016, the total number of civil servants and public employees in local and regional administrative bodies grew by 136, while the number of civil servants and public employees from the ranks of national minorities declined by 49.

Out of the 455 employed civil servants and public employees from the ranks of persons belonging to national minorities, most are Serbs, 257, followed by Italians (66), Bosniaks (39), Czechs (21), Slovenes (14), Hungarians (19), Montenegrins (10), Macedonians (7), Germans (6), Slovaks (5), Albanians (3), Ruthenians and Romanians (2 each), while the least, with one each, are from the ranks of persons belonging to the Bulgarian, Roma, Russian and Jewish national minorities.

Here it should be noted that individual local governments do not submit data on the nationality of its civil servants and public employees, for in the absence of the obligation of individuals to declare their nationality, the question of nationality is not even posed, and there is thus no information on the state of employees based on nationality (City of Pula/Pola, City of Zagreb).

For example, the City of Zagreb has reported that, in compliance with Article 8 of the Personal Data Protection Act (*Narodne novine*, nos. 103/03, 118/06, 41/08, 130/11, 106/12 – consolidated text, which became null and void with the adoption of the Decision to Promulgate the Act Implementing the General Data Protection Regulation, *Narodne novine*, no. 42/18), the collection and further processing of personal data, including among other things data on ethnic origin, was prohibited, and the sole exception was that such data could be gathered with the consent of the respondent, i.e. the person to whom such data pertained. Given these reasons, not a single document of more recent date contains data on nationality, and data on nationality for 235 civil servants/public employees in administrative bodies remains unknown, and it is designated under the heading “undeclared.” Thus, according to the data for 2017, the number of “undeclared” civil servants and public employees in the City of Zagreb is higher than in the preceding year, 2016, which was also reflected in the considerably higher total number of “undeclared” civil servants and public employees in the administrative bodies of local and regional governments.

Specifically, the total number of “undeclared” civil servants and public employees in the administrative bodies of local and regional governments has increased from 137 to 252, which constitutes an increase of 115 employed civil servants and public employees, or 0.83% in relation to the total number of those employed in the administrative bodies of local and regional governments.

As a result of this and the fact that, pursuant to the Ordinance on the Content and Methods for Maintaining Employee Records (*Narodne novine*, no. 73/17), data on nationality are not mandatory in records of employees, an increasing number of units do not include these data in their employee records, which, as apparent in the aforementioned examples, may lead to a reduction in the presented number of employees belonging to national minorities in the administrative bodies of local and regional governments.

Representation of persons belonging to national minorities in the civil service

Over the entire reporting period, from 2014 to 2018, the decisions to halt new recruitment of civil servants and public employees in state bodies, staffs and offices of the Croatian Government, Decision of 17 December 2009 (*Narodne novine*, no. 153/09), Decision of 26 September 2014 (*Narodne novine*, no. 114/14), Decision of 27 July 2016 (*Narodne novine*, nos. 70/16, 74/17 and 71/18), have been in effect. These decisions had an impact on the possibility of hiring to the civil service in general, including the hiring of national minorities.

As at 31 December 2018, the state administrative bodies, staff services and offices of the Croatian Government employed 49,612 civil servants and public employees, of whom 1,605 or 3.24% were persons belonging to national minorities. The data broken down by nationality

of those employed who belong to national minorities show that in these bodies at the end of 2018, most of these employees were Serbian, 1,048, who accounted for 2.11% of the total number of those employed; they were followed by Hungarians, 92, or 0.19%; Bosniaks, 90, or 0.18%; Italians, 87, or 0.17%; Czechs, 83, or 0.16 %; Slovenes, 39, or 0.08%; Albanians, 20, or 0.04%; and 9 Roma, or 0.02%; while 137 civil servants and public employees, or 2.8% of the total number of civil servants and public employees, declared national minority status.

It is particularly noteworthy that 121 persons are employed in state administrative bodies, staff services and the Croatian Government's offices who declared their nationality as Muslim. For comparison's sake, as at 31 December 2017, the state administrative bodies, staff services and offices of the Croatian Government employed 49,602 civil servants and public employees, of whom 1,658 or 3.34% were persons belonging to national minorities.

Furthermore, all state bodies are obliged to post public vacancy announcements for full-time employment in the civil service in the official journal of the Republic of Croatia, *Narodne novine*, on their own web-sites and on the web-site of the Ministry of Public Administration. Notification of public vacancy announcements are also submitted to the relevant employment service. Announcements for full-time recruitment to the civil service are posted on the web-sites of the bodies that release them, the web-site of the Ministry of Public Administration and via the relevant employment service.

The Ministry of Public Administration conducts oversight of the legality of the posted texts of vacancy announcements and recruitment postings and notifies state bodies of the obligation to cite the section of the text tied to the priority to hire persons belonging to national minorities when all other conditions are equal.

Further, persons belonging to national minorities are instructed that they are entitled to invoke their priority in hiring in compliance with Article 22(2) of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities, without the obligation to provide evidence of their nationality. The Ministry of Public Information notifies persons belonging to national minorities of this right via responses to queries and posts on its own web-site.

In adhering to the provisions of regulations which govern recruitment to civil service, during the process of planning for recruitment to the civil service, particular attention is accorded to the representation of national minorities in the total number of employees in state administrative bodies, staff services and the Croatian Government's offices.

So during civil service recruitment planning for state administrative bodies, staff services and the Croatian Government's offices, data are sought from the aforementioned bodies on the occupancy of workplaces by persons belonging to national minorities and data on the planned

recruitment of persons belonging to national minorities to the civil service in relation to the total planned recruitment during the course of the year.

Recruitment planning

The civil service recruitment plan for state administrative bodies, staff services and the Croatian Government's offices (hereinafter: Recruitment Plan) for 2014 was adopted on 22 May 2014 (*Narodne novine*, nos. 65/14 and 100/14 – supplemented). Under this plan, recruitment for a total of 67 persons belonging to national minorities to the civil service was projected.

The Recruitment Plan for 2015 was adopted on 11 March 2015 (*Narodne novine*, nos. 31/15 and 52/15 – supplemented). Under this plan, recruitment for a total of 89 persons belonging to national minorities to the civil service was projected.

The Recruitment Plan for 2016 was adopted on 12 September 2016 (*Narodne novine*, no. 82/16) and under it recruitment for a total of 41 persons belonging to national minorities to the civil service was projected.

The Recruitment Plan for 2017 was adopted on 14 June 2017 (*Narodne novine*, no. 58/17) and under it recruitment for a total of 95 persons belonging to national minorities to the civil service was projected.

The Recruitment Plan for 2018 was adopted on 18 April 2018 (*Narodne novine*, nos. 43/18 and 52/18 – supplemented) and under it recruitment for a total of 33 persons belonging to national minorities to the civil service was projected.

We also note that under the aforementioned Operational Programmes for National Minorities for 2017-2020, in which one of the activities under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Public Administration is the establishment of a mechanism to monitor exercise of the rights to priority and hiring of persons belonging to national minorities in the civil and public services and at the level of local and regional governments, with the objective of consistent implementation of Article 22 of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities. In relation to this activity, we note that the methodology for monitoring the exercise of priority rights in hiring of persons belonging to national minorities in the civil service and in administrative bodies of local and regional governments is being developed.

National minority councils and representatives

Article 23 of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities stipulates that, for the purpose of promotion, preservation and protection of the status of national minorities in society, persons belonging to national minorities elect, in the manner and under the conditions stipulated by the Constitutional Act, their representatives to participate in public life and management of local affairs through national minority councils and representatives in local and regional governmental units.

Article 24 of the Constitutional Act stipulates the criteria whereby persons belonging to national minorities may elect councils in those local governmental units in which a certain national minority accounts for a minimum of 1.5% of the total population, in units in which more than 200 persons belonging to a certain national minority live, and in those regional governmental units in which more than 500 persons belonging to a national minority live. In cases where at least one of the stated conditions for election of a national minority council is not met in the governmental unit where at a minimum of 100 persons belonging to a national minority live, a national minority representative is elected.

The Constitutional Act also specifies the number of members of national minority councils: 10 members are elected to national minority councils in municipalities, 15 members are elected to national minority councils in towns/cities, and 25 members are elected to national minority councils in counties.

It further stipulates that candidates for members of national minority councils or national minority representatives may be proposed by national minority associations or a minimum of 20 persons belonging to national minorities in the territory of a municipality, or 30 in the territory of a town/city and 50 in the territory of a county. To determine the number of persons belonging to national minorities in order to implement the aforementioned provisions, the population census is taken as authoritative, (increased or reduced) by the number of voters who were registered or deleted from the voter rolls compiled for the election of members to the representative bodies of local units.

At its session held on 23 April 2015, the Croatian Government issued the Decision to Call for National Minority Representatives in Local and Regional Governmental Units and the Decision to Call Elections for Members of National Minority Councils in Local and Regional Governmental Units, both published in the official journal, *Narodne novine*, no. 47/15 of 28 April 2015, with the election date scheduled for 31 May 2015.

Additionally, at its session held on 30 April 2015, the Croatian Government issued the Decision Amending the Decision to Call Elections for National Minority Representatives in

Local and Regional Governmental Units, published in *Narodne novine*, no. 48/15 of 30 April 2015. Pursuant to these Decisions by the Croatian Government, elections for national minority councils and representatives in the counties, towns and municipalities were held on 31 May 2015.

Based on the election results, at its session held on 11 June 2015, the Croatian Government issued the Decision Granting Authorization to Convene the Constitutive Sessions of National Minority Councils, which was published in *Narodne novine*, no. 65/15 of 12 June 2015.

At the elections for members of national minority councils and representatives in local and regional governmental units held on 31 May 2015, a total of 285 councils and 169 representatives of national minorities in local and regional governmental units were elected.

A total of 155 national minority representatives, 277 national minority councils and 12 coordinating bodies of national minority councils and representatives were recorded in the Register of National Minority Councils, Coordinating Bodies and Representatives.

An overview of the funds secured in the budgets of local and regional governments allocated for the functioning of national minority councils and representatives for the 2014-2017:

Year	Total allocated funds in HRK
2014	24,788,016.14
2015	22,039,728.24
2016	22,690,286.08
2017	24,840,799.23

With reference to the election of national minority councils and representatives, we should note that the Local Elections Act of 2012 stipulates that the procedure to elect members to national minority councils and individual representatives, for whom ballots are cast pursuant to the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities, will be regulated by special legislation. The enactment of this law is also foreseen by the Operational Programmes for National Minorities for 2017-2020.

In this regard, at its session held on 20 December 2018, the Croatian Government adopted the Draft Bill on the Elections of National Minority Councils and Representatives, which sets forth a comprehensive method for regulating the election of national minority councils and representatives. This bill was enacted by the Croatian Parliament on 1 March 2019.

Project of support to efficient implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities

We additionally note that in the period from 9 May 2016 to 9 May 2017, the IPA TAIB 2012 project “Support to efficient implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities” was implemented. One of its objectives included comprehensive application of the rights of national minorities in Croatia and effective application of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities.

The project consisted of three components:

- an established and operational e-System to monitor and report on the rights of national minorities at the national, regional and local levels;
- reinforcement of the capacity of state administrative bodies, local and regional governments and national minority councils at the local level;
- increased public awareness, including persons belonging to national minorities, of the protection of minority rights in Croatia.

The introduction and development of a uniform e-System ensures efficient monitoring of the situation regarding the enforcement of national minority rights under the purview of the Ministry of Public Administration, exercised at the level of local and regional governments. The new e-System allows users to fill out the required forms online and to submit them through the e-System to a county-level state administrative office for verification. Data consolidation is automatically done by the e-System, and the county-level state administrative offices and the Ministry of Public Administration can monitor progress during the form completion process.

The data entered in the web forms, which are a component of the developed e-System, are the same as those gathered in preceding years, with the difference being that now they are consolidated in a structured and uniform manner through the e-System, wherein a web form is developed for each data-set whereby they are gathered. These data pertain to: equal official use of national minority languages and scripts, preservation of traditional names and designations, naming settlements, streets and squares after persons and events of significance to the history and culture of national minorities in Croatia and the use of emblems and symbols of national minorities, representation of national minorities in the representative and executive bodies of local and regional governments, the functioning of national minority representatives and councils, the total number of civil servants and public employees and the number of civil servants and public employees from among the ranks of persons belonging to national minorities who are employed in the administrative bodies of each local and regional government, the adoption of annual civil service recruitment plans and planning for

recruitment of persons belonging to national minorities in the administrative bodies of local and regional governments, analysis of implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities, and oversight and exercise of the right to use of national minority languages and scripts in first-instance proceedings before county-level state administrative offices and also in the charters of local and regional governments. We stress that in 2018, when compiling the Report on Implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities for 2017, the data under the purview of the Ministry of Public Administration were gathered using the aforementioned e-System for the first time.

In addition to the aforementioned e-System, an important aspect of the project was the improvement of the training system for the Constitutional Act and the e-System to monitor it, which will also be a significant contribution to the sustainable and improved implementation of the Constitutional Act itself. The project included training of trainers for the delivery of workshops on the Constitutional Act and its enforcement, and on the use of the new application to monitor enforcement. The trainers held three pilot workshops in which 36 state-level and local civil servants participated, and ten one-day workshops in ten different Croatian cities in which 236 state-level and local civil servants participated.

The target groups for workshops were civil servants in state-level administrative bodies (Ministry of Public Administration, OHRRNM) and county-level state administrative offices and civil servants working in local and regional governments.

Upon completion of the workshops, a final version of the methodology, the educational programme and materials developed within the framework of the aforementioned Project were drafted, and after completion of the educational programme project the implementation of the State Public Administration School has been foreseen by means of project activities.

Ten regional presentations of the e-System were also held, at which 305 representatives of county-level state administrative offices, national minority NGOs and NGOs dealing with national minority Rights, national minority councils and representatives in local and regional governments and local media representatives participated.

From the Report of the Ministry of Justice

Representation of persons belonging to national minorities in judicial bodies

The Ministry of Justice continually monitors statistics on judicial officials and civil servants, public employees and interns belonging to national minorities in judicial bodies. The recruitment procedure for admitting civil servants is independently implemented by judicial bodies.

With regard to the appointment of judges, Article 50 of the National Judicial Council Act (*Narodne novine*, nos. 116/10, 57/11, 130/11, 13/13, 28/13, 82/15, 67/18) stipulates that during the appointment of judges, due consideration must be accorded to the representation of judges belonging to national minorities in compliance with the provisions of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities. Persons belonging to national minorities who apply for a posted vacant judicial seat are entitled to invoke the right guaranteed to them by the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities. Identical provisions are contained in Article 53 of the Public Prosecution Council Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 67/18), pertaining to the appointment of deputy public prosecutors. Article 23(5) of the Judicial Academy Act (*Narodne novine*, nos. 153/09, 127/10, 82/15) contains the general provision stipulating that when enrolling in the State Judicial Official School, persons who have priority rights under special legislation shall have that right explicitly acknowledged in their submitted applications.

Below is a table showing data on the number of persons belonging to national minorities employed in judicial bodies as at 31 December 2017.

Judiciary – civil servants, public employees and interns in the courts – consolidated table as at 31 December 2017

	Total		State-level courts		County courts		Municipal courts		Commercial courts		Administrative courts		Misdemeanour courts		Compared to 31/12/2016 (+/-)
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	%
Serbs	118	1.79		0.00	18	2.27	78	1.98	6	1.08	1	1.12	15	1.53	-4.84
Bosniaks	19	0.29		0.00		0.00	16	0.41	1	0.18		0.00	2	0.2	-5.
Italians	15	0.23		0.00		0.00	12	0.3		0.00		0.00	3	0.31	-6.25
Hungarians	10	0.15		0.00		0.00	6	0.15	2	0.36		0.00	2	0.2	0.00
Slovenes	3	0.05		0.00		0.00	2	0.05		0.00	1	1.12		0.00	0.00
Albanians	4	0.06		0.00		0.00	4	0.1		0.00		0.00		0.00	33.33
Czechs	15	0.23		0.00		0.00	8	0.2		0.00		0.00	7	0.72	-11.76
Roma	0	0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	0.00
Others	87	1.32	2	0.85	7	0.88	67	1.7	2	0.36	4	4.49	5	0.51	16.00
Total	6,604		235		794		3,949		558		89		979		-0.36
of this PNM*	271	4	2	0.85	25	3.15	193	4.89	11	1.97	6	6.74	34	3.47	1.12

Notes:

* State-level courts – Supreme Court, High Administrative Court, High Commercial Court, High Misdemeanour Court

* data pertain to civil servants employed both indefinitely and for fixed terms

* Others – brief explanation (9-Montenegrins, 3-Macedonians, 2-Muslims, 60-Undeclared, 4-Germans, 1-Ruthenians, 5-Slovaks, 3-Ukrainians)

* PNM – persons belonging to national minorities

Judiciary – civil servants, public employees and interns in public prosecution offices – consolidated table as at 31 December 2017

	Total		PPRC*		USKOK*		County public prosecution		Municipal public prosecution		Compared to 31/12/2016 (+/-)
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	%
Serbs	27	2.35	1	2,13		0.00	10	3.36	16	2.1	8
Bosniaks	4	0.35		0.00		0.00	1	0.34	3	0.39	0.00
Italians	1	0.09		0.00		0.00	1	0.34		0.00	-50
Hungarians	0	0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	0.00
Slovenes	0	0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	0.00
Albanians	1	0,09		0.00		0.00	1	0.34		0.00	0.00
Czechs	1	0,09		0.00		0.00	1	0.34		0.00	0.00
Roma	0	0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	0.00
Others	15	1.31		0.00	1	2.44	3	1.01	11	1.45	7.14
Total	1,147		47		41		298		761		3.43
of this PNM*	49	4.27	1	2.13	1	2.44	17	5.7	30	3.94	4.26

Notes:

* State-level courts – Supreme Court, High Administrative Court, High Commercial Court, High Misdemeanour Court

* data pertain to civil servants employed both indefinitely and for fixed terms

* Others – brief explanation (1-Montenegrin, 1-Macedonian, 2-Muslim, 8-Undeclared, 1-Slovak, 1-Tatar, 1-Ukrainian)

* PNM – persons belonging to national minorities

* PPRC – Public Prosecution of the Republic of Croatia

* USKOK – Anti-Corruption and Organized Crime Office

Judiciary – judicial officials in the courts – consolidated table as at 31 December 2017

	Total		State-level courts		County courts		Municipal courts		Commercial courts		Administrative courts		Misdemeanour courts		Compared to 31/12/2016 (+/-)
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	%
Serbs	40	2.24		0.00	11	2.84	18	2.3		0.00	1	2.13	10	3.02	-4.76
Bosniaks	3	0.17		0.00	1	0.26	1	0.13		0.00		0.00	1	0.3	0.00
Italians	2	0.11		0.00		0.00	2	0.26		0.00		0.00		0.00	0.00
Hungarians	2	0.11		0.00		0.00	1	0.13		0.00		0.00	1	0.3	0.00
Slovenes	0	0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	0.00
Albanians	0	0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	0.00
Czechs	1	0.06		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	1	0.30	0.00
Roma	0	0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	0.00
Others	10	0.56	2	1.57	3	0.77	3	0.38		0.00		0.00	2	0.6	-16.67
Total	1,788		127		388		782		113		47		331		-2.3
of this PNM*	58	3.24	2	1.57	15	3.87	25	3.2	0	0.00	1	2.13	15	4.53	-6.45

Notes:

* State-level courts – Supreme Court, High Administrative Court, High Commercial Court, High Misdemeanour Court

* Others – brief explanation (3- Montenegrins, 1- Macedonian, 2- Undeclared, 2-Ruthenians, 1-Slovak, 1-Jew)

* PNM – persons belonging to national minorities

Judiciary – officials in public prosecution offices – consolidated table as at 31 December 2017

	Total		PPRC*		USKOK*		County public prosecution		Municipal public prosecution		Compared to 31/12/2016 (+/-)
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	%
Serbs	18	2.94		0.00	1	2.94	9	5.56	8	2.03	0.00
Bosniaks	1	0.16	1	4.55		0.00		0.00		0.00	0.00
Italians	2	0.33		0.00		0.00	1	0.62	1	0.25	0.00
Hungarians	1	0.16		0.00		0.00		0.00	1	0.25	0.00
Slovenes	0	0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	-100
Albanians	0	0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	0.00
Czechs	1	0.16		0.00		0.00		0.00	1	0.25	0.00
Roma	0	0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	0.00
Others	4	0.65		0.00		0.00	1	0.62	3	0.76	0.00
Total	613		22		34		162		395		-1.29
of this PNM*	27	4.4	1	4.55	1	2.94	11	6.79	14	3.54	-3.57

Notes:

* State-level courts – Supreme Court, High Administrative Court, High Commercial Court, High Misdemeanour Court

* Others – brief explanation

* PNM – persons belonging to national minorities

* PPRC – Public Prosecution of the Republic of Croatia

* USKOK – Anti-Corruption and Organized Crime Office

With reference to Article 16 of the Framework Convention

From the Report of the Central State Office for Reconstruction and Housing

Return, reconstruction and housing for former holders of tenancy rights

The Amendments to the Displaced Person and Refugee Status Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 51A/13) and the Regulation on the Criteria for Confirmation and Loss of Refugee, Displaced Person and Returnee Status (*Narodne novine*, no. 133/13) thoroughly stipulated the conditions to acquire the status of returnee as well as the rights ensuing from this status (monetary assistance and health-care), and the resolution of such requests has been entrusted to the state administrative offices in the counties and the City of Zagreb as first-instance bodies, while the appeals body is the Central State Office for Reconstruction and Housing. In this manner, legal protection for persons seeking recognition of status and the right to appeal and other legal remedies has been established.

The Regulation also stipulates that in the case of former tenancy right-holders and their family members who have submitted a request for housing and returned to the Republic of Croatia, the procedure to determine their returnee status is initiated automatically on an *ex officio* basis, so that the parties need not submit a request for confirmation of status. Furthermore, it must be stated that persons for whom the status of returnee is recognized have the right to monetary assistance during the six months following the date of their return (also the duration of returnee status) and the right to health-care. During the period under observation, i.e. from 2014 to 2018, 506 persons were granted returnee status, on which basis HRK 577,391.70 in monetary assistance was disbursed during that period.

Furthermore, establishment of the status of former tenancy right-holders and their family members and the criteria for assignment of housing to them in areas of special state concern and outside of these areas are regulated by the Regulation on Establishment of the Status of Former Tenancy Right-holders and Their Family Members and Housing Procedure Criteria (*Narodne novine*, no. 133/13), adopted in 2013, pursuant to Article 12a(9) of the Act on Areas of Special State Concern (*Narodne novine*, nos. 86/08, 57/11, 51A/13). Article 13(1) of this same Regulation stipulates that requests for housing of former tenancy right-holders received pursuant to the Conclusion which governs the provision of housing for returnees who do not own a house or a flat and lived in state-owned flats (former tenancy right-holders) in areas of Croatia outside of areas of special state concern (*Narodne novine*, no. 100/03), the Croatian Government's Conclusion of 9 December 2004 (*Narodne novine*, no. 179/04), the Croatian Government's Conclusion of 30 June 2005 (*Narodne novine*, no. 79/05), the Decision concerning housing for returnees/former tenancy right-holders outside of areas of special state

concern (*Narodne novine*, nos. 29/11 and 139/11) and the Decision concerning housing for returnees/former tenancy right-holders outside of areas of special state concern (*Narodne novine*, no. 42/13), which were not resolved by the entry into force of this Regulation (14 November 2013), will be resolved by the county-level state administrative office with local jurisdiction or the administrative body of the City of Zagreb with jurisdiction in compliance with the provisions of this Regulation. Consequently, with reference to the procedure and criteria for the exercise of rights by former tenancy right-holders, a single regulation is applied, which has contributed to legal certainty and more effective resolution of requests for housing by these beneficiaries.

In line with the above, we can report that 3,033 unresolved housing requests from former tenancy right-holders were registered in the official records of the Central State Office for Reconstruction and Housing in 2015. In 2016, 713 housing requests of former tenancy right-holders were resolved in the competent state administrative offices, while 2,320 such housing requests remained to be resolved in that same year. Out of that remaining number of 2,320 unresolved housing requests from tenancy right-holders, 1,199 were resolved in 2017. Based on this rate of resolving housing requests of former tenancy right-holders, 1,121 requests remained to be resolved in 2018.

A review of the updated data in the county-level state administrative offices with jurisdiction, as well as first-instance bodies from 2018 to the present indicates that up to the present 831 housing requests of former tenancy right-holders have been resolved, while 290 such requests remain to be resolved.

Moreover, based on a review of the records of the Central State Office tied to the issuing of lease contracts for former tenancy right-holders in the period from 2014 to 2018, we are submitting data on lease contracts per year: (2014) 33 lease contracts; (2015) 136 lease contracts, (2016) 84 lease contracts, (2017) 188 lease contracts, (2018) 91 lease contracts.

Since 2015, when 3,033 unresolved housing requests from former tenancy right-holders were registered, to the present, a total of 2,743 requests have been resolved, and a total of 481 lease contracts have been issued. We should note that cooperation with the relevant bodies in the Republics of Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina contributed to this, tied to the delivery of data on those submitting requests who had domicile or resided abroad.

Reconstruction and repair of housing units damaged or destroyed in wartime

In the period from 2014 to 2018, implementation of the reconstruction and repair programme continued for housing damaged or destroyed in the war, as well as investments in the reconstruction or new construction of utilities and municipal infrastructure for the purpose of

completion of the reconstruction and return programme, and the provision of conditions for sustainable residence and life in formerly war-stricken areas.

In the period under observation, the objective was to conclude the programme of reconstruction and repair of housing damaged during the war, with the simultaneous intensification of the housing programme and model, particularly the model of donated building materials for the repair, reconstruction or construction of family homes.

Through the reconstruction and housing programme and donated building material model in the period under observation, a total of 1,990 family homes were repaired, constructed or reconstructed, of which over 363 family homes were encompassed by the reconstruction and repair model for war-damaged housing and approximately 1,627 family homes were encompassed by the donated building material model. Records of the beneficiaries of these programmes based on nationality are not maintained, so that no information can be provided on the number of persons belonging to national minorities (nor a breakdown of the individual nationalities) who exercised the right to reconstruction, repair or construction of family homes.

Regional housing programme

The Regional Permanent Housing Solutions Programme for Refugees and Displaced Persons is a joint initiative of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia, i.e. partner countries, based on the Joint Declaration signed by the foreign ministers of the partner countries in Belgrade in 2011. The regional housing care programme consists of four national housing care programmes. The objective of the programme is to secure permanent housing solutions for 74,000 persons, i.e., 27,000 families over a five-year period, from the date of signing of the Framework Agreement, and the funding required for its implementation is € 584 million. The programme is managed by the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB), which established the Regional Programme Fund through which donor funds are allocated to the partner states for projects within the framework of their national programmes.

Under the programme, housing for 3,541 families, or 8,529 individuals, was initially foreseen in Croatia, and the necessary funds in an amount of € 119.7 million were projected for this purpose (Croatia's planned share in the entire programme is 25%). Since several years have passed since the initial idea for this Programme, the signing of the joint declaration by the foreign ministers and the actual commencement of its implementation, in the meantime the Republic of Croatia has become a European Union member state and as such it no longer has at its disposal the foreseen allocations from the Regional Housing Programme Fund. Therefore, currently funds in an amount of € 14.4 million have been approved to the Republic of Croatia to provide housing for 328 families. The framework agreement signed by the Republic of Croatia and the CEB on 3 December 2013 regulates the legal framework for use

of finances from the Regional Housing Fund Programme managed by the CEB and the legal framework for cooperation between Croatia and the CEB.

Within the framework of the regional programme, six projects in Croatia have been planned, and in the course of their implementation thus far, 263 housing units have been constructed or purchased. During 2017, all projects have been concluded, except for the project component involving the purchase of 101 flats and the project to construct/reconstruct 62 family homes, which continued into 2018.

The first completed project involved the construction of a multi-unit housing complex in Kornica with 29 flats for former tenancy right-holders, with a total value of € 1,398,211.00 (donation value: € 1,048,658.00; national contribution: € 349,553.00). Completion of the project secured housing for 29 families of former tenancy right-holders and persons from institutional accommodation, whose members are generally elderly.

This was followed by the construction of two multi-unit buildings in Knin, with 20 flats in each. The grant agreement for project implementation was concluded on 23 June 2014 between Croatia and the CEB. Project completion secured housing for 40 families of former tenancy right-holders and persons from institutional accommodation. The planned value of the project is € 3,475,781.00, of which the donation value was € 2,587,037.00, while the national contribution was € 888,744.00.

Furthermore, the reconstruction of a home for the elderly and infirm in Glina was also planned. The grant agreement was concluded on 25 February 2015, which stipulated funding for project implementation in an amount of € 4,831,413, of which € 3,085,525 were financed by the CEB, while the remaining 25% was secured by Croatia. The home for the elderly and infirm in Glina was planned and conceived as a permanent solution for housing of persons with the status of refugee, returnee and displaced persons from institutional accommodations (Polikarpa, Kovačevac Settlement for Displaced Persons) and other returnees who are unable to live independently due to their advanced age.

The purchase of flats for 101 potential beneficiaries was also planned. On 6 December 2013, the Donors Assembly approved funds for the implementation of this project in an amount of € 4,287,855.00. The total project value is € 5,717,855.00, with Croatia providing co-financing for project implementation in an amount of € 1,429,285.00. Thus far, based on six public invitations, the purchase of a total of 99 flats in and outside of areas of special state concern has been completed, so two more flats have yet to be purchased.

A grant agreement for a construction project of a multi-unit residential building in Benkovac for 21 families was signed in September 2015. Construction of this building in Benkovac

secured housing for 21 families of former tenancy right-holders and persons who had refugee status. The value of the project was € 1,323,103.00, of which donor funds accounted for € 999,721.00, while the national contribution was € 323,382.00.

The final approved project in the first implementation phase of the regional housing programme involved the reconstruction, repair or construction of 62 family homes in Croatia's territory. The grant agreement was signed in July 2016, and the project value is € 2,666,670.00 (donation value: € 2,000,000.00; national contribution: € 666,670.00). The project objective is to secure permanent housing for 62 families who meet the social vulnerability criteria specified by the Regional Housing Programme, and whose homes were damaged and who could not find a permanent housing solution up to this point.

Given the approved additional donor funds from the United States, the second phase of implementation of the Regional Housing Programme commenced. Project proposal forms (PAFs) were drafted for three new projects: construction of a multi-unit residential building in Vukovar for 21 families, purchase of 38 flats and construction/reconstruction of 25 family homes. These PAFs were submitted to the CEB for consideration on 31 January 2018, and they were approved on 6 June 2018 at the 12th Steering Committee Meeting held in Zagreb. The total estimated value of these projects is € 3,945,402.00, of which donor funds account for € 2,704,340.00, and the national contribution € 1,241,062.00. Housing for an additional 84 beneficiary families has been planned under these projects. Preparation and signing of agreements for three newly-approved projects and their approval by the Croatian Government are under way.

In conclusion, we note that in the period from 2014 to 2018, HRK 115,730,531 was spent for Reconstruction and Construction of Housing Damaged in Wartime activities, while HRK 352,552,436 was spent for Housing activities.

With reference to Articles 17 and 18 of the Framework Convention

From the Report of the Central State Office for Croats Abroad

Pursuant to the Act on the Relations of the Republic of Croatia with Croats Abroad (*Narodne novine*, nos. 124/2011, 16/2012), in 2012 the Government of the Republic of Croatia established the State Office for Croats Abroad as a central administrative body responsible for relations between the Republic of Croatia and Croats living abroad. In October 2016 its name was changed to the Central State Office for Croats Abroad (hereinafter: CSOCA).

Within the scope of its operations, the CSOCA encourages the drafting and monitoring of international agreements on the protection of minorities through the currently existing intergovernmental mixed committees. The Republic of Croatia has thus far signed four agreements and treaties on the protection of minorities with Hungary, Serbia, Macedonia and Montenegro, on which basis intergovernmental mixed committees have been established, while it has signed a treaty with Italy which did not stipulate the establishment of an intergovernmental mixed committee to monitor treaty implementation. Under the 1955 State Agreement with the Republic of Austria, Article 7 guarantees rights of the Croatian national minority.

During the reporting period, the third session of the Intergovernmental Mixed Committee on Minority Protection between Croatia and Macedonia was held in Skopje on 18 June 2018. Implementation of recommendations adopted at the preceding session, held in Zagreb in October 2010, and current matters of important to both minorities were analyzed at the session. The importance of active participation in the work of the Intergovernmental Mixed Committee by representatives of both minorities was particularly underscored.

On this occasion, Macedonian Prime Minister Zoran Zaev received a Croatian delegation headed by Zvonko Milas, the state secretary in charge of the Central State Office for Croats Abroad. At the meeting, they discussed modes and possibilities for advancing the rights of national minorities and reinforcing cooperation between the two states. Zaev stressed the friendship between the two states and the continual support of the Croatian Government and Prime Minister Andrej Plenković for Macedonia's process for accession to Euro-Atlantic integration. Milas expressed satisfaction with the expression of readiness to support the Croatian community's activities, and the definition of the premiere status of Croats in the Republic of Macedonia. Both sides expressed readiness to continue developing friendly relations and enhancing mutual cooperation.

At its session held on 10 January 2019, the Croatian Government adopted the Conclusion which endorses the recommendations from the Minutes of the 3rd Session of the Croatian-Macedonian Intergovernmental Mixed Committee on Minorities.

Croatia and Hungary held two sessions of their Intergovernmental Mixed Committee on Minority Protection during the reporting period. The last, 14th session of the Intergovernmental Mixed Committee between Croatia and Hungary was held in Budapest on 6 March 2018, while the preceding 13th session was held in Zagreb on 23 February 2017.

At the 14th session of the Intergovernmental Mixed Committee it was stressed that cooperation in the fields of culture and education have been traditionally sound and that it would be vital to continue on that mark. Over the past year, many projects important to minorities in both countries had been implemented, so that 2017 was one of the most successful years in terms of carrying out the recommendations of the Croatian-Hungarian Intergovernmental Mixed Committee on National Minorities. It was once more confirmed that the Croatian minority in Hungary and the Hungarian minority in Croatia enjoy a high level of minority rights, in compliance with the highest global standards and within the European context they stand as a model of successful and good practices. At its session held on 30 May 2018, the Croatian Government adopted the Conclusion which endorses the recommendations from the Minutes of the 14th Session of the Croatian-Macedonian Intergovernmental Mixed Committee on Minorities.

The 13th session of the Intergovernmental Mixed Committee was held in Zagreb on 23 February 2017. The Conclusion which endorsed its recommendation was adopted by the Croatian Government at its session held on 8 June 2017.

We should note that at the call of the OSCE (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe) High Commissioner on National Minorities, Mrs. Astrid Thors, Croatia and Hungary presented their Intergovernmental Mixed Committee on Mutual Protection of National Minorities as an example of good practice as a thematic session (Human Dimension Supplementary Meeting) of the OSCE held in Vienna on 10-11 November 2016.

The Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Serbia held two sessions of their Intergovernmental Mixed Committee on Minority Protection during the reporting period.

The last, 7th session of the Intergovernmental Mixed Committee was held in Belgrade and Monoštor on 30-31 January 2018, while the preceding 6th session was held in Zagreb and Vrhovine on 22-23 October 2014.

At the 7th session of the Intergovernmental Mixed Committee, despite numerous open matters, both sides demonstrated openness to establishing constructive dialogue with the aim of improving the status of minorities and thereby also furthering relations between the two states. Besides already long-discussed topics and issues, both sides expressed a willingness to foster better cooperation within the framework of European Union developmental and transborder projects between the two states, with the involvement of persons belonging to both minorities. The CSOCA is intensively encouraging further work and sessions of the Intergovernmental Mixed Committee between Croatia and Serbia, which it shall continue to do going forward.

At its session held on 4 October 2018, the Croatian Government adopted the Conclusion which endorses the recommendations from the Minutes of the 7th session of the Croatian-Serbian Intergovernmental Mixed Committee on Minorities.

Croatia and Montenegro held three sessions of their Intergovernmental Mixed Committee on Minority Protection during the reporting period.

The last, 3rd session of the Intergovernmental Mixed Committee was held in Podgorica on 27 September 2018, while the preceding 2nd session was held in Zagreb on 24 May 2017. The 1st session was held in Podgorica on 28 April 2015.

At the 3rd session, implementation of the recommendations adopted at the preceding session was analyzed, and resolutions on current matters of importance to both minorities were aligned. On this occasion, as before, both sides agreed that Croatia and Montenegro can be counted among those European states which secure a high level of minority rights in compliance with international standards of protection. The friendly relations between the two states was also emphasized, as well as the fact that Croatia, as a European Union member state, is supporting Montenegro's path to European integration. Prior to the beginning of the session, the Croatian delegation led by state secretary Zvonko Milas was received by Montenegrin Human and Minority Rights Minister Mehmed Zenka. The meeting was attended by Marija Vučinović, a minister without portfolio, from the ranks of the Croatian minority in Montenegro.

At the 2nd session of the Intergovernmental Mixed Committee, the Minutes containing recommendations to the governments of both countries, both joint and individual, were adopted and signed. The adopted recommendations pertain to the representation of minorities at the national, county and local level in administrative bodies, restitution of assets, education and dissemination of information in minority languages and scripts, official use of languages and scripts, protection of the monumental and cultural heritage and financing. At its session held on 12 October 2017, the Croatian Government adopted the Conclusion which endorses

the recommendations from the Minutes of the 2nd session of the Croatian-Montenegrin Intergovernmental Mixed Committee on Minorities.

With visible progress in fulfilling and implementing recommendations and thereby securing an improved status for national minorities, in this report we would like to stress that the CSOCA has undertaken initiatives tied to the recognition of Croats as a national minority in Slovenia. In order to systematically facilitate coordinated activities between Croatian institutions and the Croatian community in Slovenia, the Office established the Commission on Resolution of the Status of Croats in the Republic of Slovenia, which commenced working in February 2018 and has thus far held three sessions.

Furthermore, the CSOCA participated in the third meeting of the Coordinating Committee of Croatian and Italian Governmental Ministers held in Rome on 18 January 2018, at which the Joint Declaration was adopted as an all-encompassing document whereby both sides undertook the commitment to enhance political cooperation and render mutual support in regional and multilateral organizations and forums, while specific areas and modes for cooperation in the coming period were established. At this meeting, both governments accorded particular attention to the possibilities for improving the status of national minorities and progress was made in the process of recognizing the historical presence of a linguistic and cultural Croatian minority in the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region.

Moreover, in those states with which Croatia does not have concluded bilateral treaties on minority protection, the Office coordinates and implements numerous activities aimed at improving the status of persons belonging to Croatian minority communities.

PART III. MONITORING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION

During the preceding period, national minority rights have been advanced in most fields. The Republic of Croatia continually upgrades its system to safeguard national minority rights in the legal/legislative field, while endeavouring to accord maximum credence to national minority opinions.

Regular annual seminars organized by the OHRRNM with participation by the Council of Europe Advisory Committee monitoring Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities contributed to progress in its implementation. Representatives of national minority associations and councils, national minority members of Croatian Parliament, representatives of governmental bodies and representatives of the Council for National Minorities participated in deliberations at these seminars in order to express their opinion on this document. Implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities also entails implementation of the commitments ensuing from the international instruments to which Croatia is a party, first and foremost the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

Participants in drafting of the Fifth Report of the Republic of Croatia on Implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities include the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, the Ministry of Public Administration, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Culture, the Council for National Minorities, the Central State Office for Croats Abroad, the Central State Office for Reconstruction and Housing, the Agency for Electronic Media, Croatian Radio-Television and the Office of the Commission on Relations with Religious Communities. National minority associations (NGOs) also submitted their opinions on implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

CONCLUSION

The Republic of Croatia is committed to safeguarding and securing of national minority rights. During the past reporting period the regulatory framework was improved in the area of protection of national minority rights. The enforcement of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities also entails implementation arising from international treaties to which the Republic of Croatia is a party, primarily the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

In the field of fostering tolerance for differences and combating discrimination, the adoption of the National Human Rights Protection and Promotion Programme and the accompanying Action Plan is deemed vital as a strategic Croatian Government document which stipulates measures for the improvement of the comprehensive system of protection against discrimination.

For the purpose of improving the socio-economic status of the Roma national minority and their complete integration into society, the National Strategy for Roma Inclusion was adopted and aligned with the EU framework for national Roma inclusion strategies, while a new Action Plan for its implementation was developed.

The Operational Programmes for National Minorities which the Croatian Government highlighted as a priority in its programme also contributed to the advancement and improvement of the status of national minorities.

During the past period additional progress was achieved in implementation of the Framework Convention, and the regular annual seminars organized by the Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities with the participation of the representatives of the Council of Europe Advisory Committee for Monitoring the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities contributed to this. The representatives of national minority associations and councils, national minority members of the Croatian Parliament and the representatives of the Council for National Minorities participated in deliberations at these conferences in order to express their opinion on the document.

According to the Opinion of the Council for National Minorities, in the preceding period national minority rights were improved in almost all areas. Providing support to numerous cultural programmes should continue with the aim of preserving the cultural and national identity of national minorities and access to the media should be improved while simultaneously ensuring activities aimed at combating discrimination, prejudices and stereotypes.

Upon accession to the European Union, the Republic of Croatia has undertaken the commitment to protect and respect national minority rights. Implementation of the Framework Convention contributed to the improvement of national minority rights in the Republic of Croatia, therefore the Croatian Government shall continue providing support to implementation of this internationally binding document.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1. From the reports of national minority associations and institutions on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

CZECH ALLIANCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA, DARUVAR

The Czech Alliance in the Republic of Croatia, as the umbrella association of the Czech national minority, reports that they are satisfied with what has been achieved to date, and that they hope to see the continued successful implementation of legal provisions concerning the exercise of national minority rights.

The Alliance has expressed its satisfaction with the financial support of national minorities allocated through the Council for National Minorities and the OHRNM.

The Alliance particularly emphasises the importance of the Operational Programmes for National Minorities for the 2017-2020 period, adopted by the Government of the RoC, since the implementation of the Programme contributes a lot to the enhancement and exercise of minority rights. The embraced approach has resulted in a major improvement in the implementation of cultural autonomy, and the Czech Alliance is very pleased with it. In the past period, they implemented projects in the fields of culture, information, publishing, education, and improved facilities in which their associations operate.

Furthermore, the report mentions that the right to use the Czech language and script in the Republic of Croatia is applied almost completely. Only the provisions of the Charter of the Municipality of Dežanovac – those regarding bilingual signs in some villages based on the acquired right – still need to be implemented.

In recent years, progress has also been achieved in the field of education in the language of the Czech national minority, and the Alliance has expressed its satisfaction with the implementation of all legal provisions concerning the education of members of national minorities. It believes that the overall curriculum reform should encompass syllabuses relating to members of national minorities.

The report points out the delays in solving the issue of textbooks and workbooks for teaching in national minority languages, and the problem of students' overburdened weekly schedules.

The Czech Alliance has also expressed its dissatisfaction with the presence of national minorities in national radio and television broadcasts.

UNION OF SLOVAKS, NAŠICE

The Union of Slovaks, as the umbrella association of the Slovak national minority, reports that major and significant improvement in the enhancement and exercise of rights of the Slovak national minority has been achieved in all the fields since their last report in 2014. The improvement has been based on some concrete steps undertaken by the Croatian Government, and especially the adoption of the Operational Programmes for National Minorities for the 2017-2020 period.

The report states that the use of the Slovak national minority language and script is fully applied in the Republic of Croatia, and that improvement has been achieved also in the field of education in the language and script of the Slovak national minority. In the past period, measures have been undertaken to meet the requirements for teaching in Slovak in places inhabited by members of the Slovak national minority. The report points out that the Slovak language and culture used to be taught in six primary schools, whereas today they are taught in 12 primary schools and 2 secondary schools.

Members of the Slovak national minority participate in public and political life of communities in which they live, where they do not only work as minority representatives or members of minority councils, but also take part in local councils, municipal and county assemblies either as representatives of minorities or as members of political parties. In some municipalities, they also hold positions of deputy majors.

The Union of Slovaks points out that progress has also been achieved in the field of cultural autonomy. It mentions that in the period under review a number of projects have been implemented which are very important for enhancements in the fields of culture, publishing, information, education, cultural events, and especially those regarding the improvement, refurbishing and construction of necessary facilities for the continuous operation of its associations and institutions, which have enjoyed full understanding and financial support of the Croatian Government.

The Union of Slovaks has expressed its dissatisfaction with the presence of the Slovak minority in all radio and television broadcasts of the Croatian Radio-Television. It believes that all national minority members should be given greater and continuous access to the public media at the national, regional and local levels, with the aim of informing the public about the role of national minority representatives and councils in local and regional governments.

DEMOCRATIC UNION OF HUNGARIANS IN CROATIA, BILJE

The Democratic Union of Hungarians in Croatia is the umbrella association of the Hungarian national minority. In its report, it emphasises the importance of the adoption of the Operational Programmes for National Minorities for the 2017-2020 period, stating that this is the most important document for national minorities in the RoC since the adoption of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities.

The adoption of the National Minority Council and Representative Elections Act, which completed the legal framework for minority institutions in the RoC, has also been important for the enhancement of national minority rights.

The Democratic Union points out the establishment of the Independent Sector for National Minority Education within the Ministry of Science and Education as a positive step.

It particularly emphasises that bilingual signs have been placed in all the communities in which the Hungarian national minority lives.

In the past period, major progress has been achieved in the implementation of the national minorities' right to cultural autonomy, by allocating significant Government funding for this purpose.

As the greatest problem, the Democratic Union of Hungarians points out calls voiced by some radical groups for referendum on reducing national minority rights, which are not supported by the Government.

The Union suggests that calls for referendum on abolishing national minority rights be regulated by the Referendum Act.

COMMUNITY OF MACEDONIANS IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

The Community of Macedonians in the RoC, as the umbrella association of the Macedonian national minority, praises continuous financing of all minority associations, including those of the Macedonian national minority, through the Council for National Minorities, with the aim of preserving and fostering minority cultures, traditions, languages and scripts.

The Community of Macedonians is grateful to the Croatian Government for its financial donation which helped the construction of the first Macedonian Orthodox church of St. Zlata of Meglen in Zagreb.

The Community is of the opinion that the public should be informed about the Anti-Discrimination Act, and that its awareness should be raised about it through written media and public discussions.

It also believes that the procedure for obtaining Croatian citizenship is too complicated.

Furthermore, the Community suggests a different method of election and participation of national minority members in the Croatian Parliament, using the so-called rotation principle based on a proportional model.

The Community also proposes certain improvements relating to the functioning of national minority councils and representatives, as special local-level elected bodies, which allow national minority members to participate in public life and govern local affairs.

Appendix 2. Population censuses by nationality, 1971–2011 (Croatian Bureau of Statistics)

3. STANOVNIŠTVO PREMA NARODNOSTI, POPISI 1971. – 2011.

	Popis 1971.		Popis 1981.		Popis 1991.		Popis 2001.		Popis 2011.	
	Broj	%	Broj	%	Broj	%	Broj	%	Broj	%
Republika Hrvatska	4.426.221	100,00	4.601.469	100,00	4.784.265	100,00	4.437.460	100,00	4.284.889	100,00
Hrvati	3.513.647	79,38	3.454.661	75,08	3.736.356	78,10	3.977.171	89,63	3.874.321	90,42
Albanci	4.175	0,09	6.006	0,13	12.032	0,25	15.082	0,34	17.513	0,41
Austrijanci	352	0,01	267	0,01	214	0,00	247	0,01	297	0,01
Bošnjaci ¹⁾	20.755	0,47	31.479	0,73
Bugari	676	0,02	441	0,01	458	0,01	331	0,01	350	0,01
Crnogorci	9.706	0,22	9.818	0,21	9.724	0,20	4.926	0,11	4.517	0,11
Česi	19.001	0,43	15.061	0,33	13.086	0,27	10.510	0,24	9.641	0,22
Mađari	35.488	0,80	25.439	0,55	22.355	0,47	16.595	0,37	14.048	0,33
Makedonci	5.625	0,13	5.362	0,12	6.280	0,13	4.270	0,10	4.138	0,10
Nijemci	2.791	0,06	2.175	0,05	2.635	0,06	2.902	0,07	2.965	0,07
Poljaci	819	0,02	758	0,02	679	0,01	567	0,01	672	0,02
Romi	1.257	0,03	3.858	0,08	6.695	0,14	9.463	0,21	16.975	0,40
Rumunji	792	0,02	609	0,01	810	0,02	475	0,01	435	0,01
Rusi	1.240	0,03	758	0,02	706	0,01	906	0,02	1.279	0,03
Rusini	3.728	0,08	3.321	0,07	3.253	0,07	2.337	0,05	1.936	0,05
Slovaci	6.482	0,15	6.533	0,14	5.606	0,12	4.712	0,11	4.753	0,11
Slovenci	32.497	0,73	25.136	0,55	22.376	0,47	13.173	0,30	10.517	0,25
Srbi	626.789	14,16	531.502	11,55	581.663	12,16	201.631	4,54	186.633	4,36
Talijani	17.433	0,39	11.661	0,25	21.303	0,45	19.636	0,44	17.807	0,42
Turci	221	0,00	279	0,01	320	0,01	300	0,01	367	0,01
Ukrajinci	2.793	0,06	2.515	0,05	2.494	0,05	1.977	0,04	1.878	0,04
Vlasi	13	0,00	16	0,00	22	0,00	12	0,00	29	0,00
Židovi	2.845	0,06	316	0,01	600	0,01	576	0,01	509	0,01
Ostali ²⁾	103.427	2,34	404.450	8,79	152.803	3,19	21.801	0,49	18.965	0,44
Regionalna pripadnost	... ³⁾	... ³⁾	8.657	0,19	45.493	0,95	9.302	0,21	27.225	0,64
Ne izjašnjavaju se	15.798	0,36	17.133	0,37	73.376	1,53	79.828	1,80	26.763	0,62
Nepoznato	18.626	0,42	64.737	1,41	62.926	1,32	17.975	0,41	8.877	0,21

1) Do Popisa 2001. Bošnjaci nisu iskazivani kao nacionalna manjina.

2) Odnosi se na sva ostala izjašnjenja koja nisu navedena u postojećim modalitetima.

3) Regionalna pripadnost nije iskazivana u Popisu 1971.

- 1) Prior to 2001 census, Bosniaks were not registered as a national minority
- 2) This regards all other declarations not included in the above options
- 3) Regional affiliation was not registered in the 1971 census

Population by mother tongue, 1991, 2001 and 2011 censuses (Croatian Bureau of Statistics)

	Popis 1991. 1991 Census		Popis 2001. 2001 Census		Popis 2011. 2011 Census		
	Broj Number	%	Broj Number	%	Broj Number	%	
Republika Hrvatska	4,784,265	100.00	4,437,460	100.00	4,284,889	100.00	Republic of Croatia
Hrvatski	3,922,725	81.99	4,265,081	96.12	4,096,305	95.60	Croatian
Hrvatsko-srpski	166,837	3.49	2,054	0.05	3,059	0.07	Croato-Serbian
Albanski	12,735	0.27	14,621	0.33	17,069	0.40	Albanian
Bosanski	6,933	0.14	9,197	0.21	16,856	0.39	Bosnian
Bugarski	355	0.01	265	0.01	293	0.01	Bulgarian
Crnogorski	528	0.01	460	0.01	876	0.02	Montenegrin
Češki	10,378	0.22	7,178	0.16	6,292	0.15	Czech
Mađarski	19,684	0.41	12,650	0.29	10,231	0.24	Hungarian
Makedonski	5,462	0.11	3,534	0.08	3,519	0.08	Macedonian
Njemački	3,586	0.07	3,013	0.07	2,986	0.07	German
Poljski	627	0.01	536	0.01	639	0.01	Polish
Romski	7,657	0.16	7,860	0.18	14,369	0.34	Romani
Rumunjski	2,118	0.04	1,205	0.03	955	0.02	Romanian
Ruski	746	0.02	1,080	0.02	1,592	0.04	Russian
Rusinski	2,845	0.06	1,828	0.04	1,472	0.03	Ruthenian
Slovački	5,265	0.11	3,993	0.09	3,792	0.09	Slovak
Slovenski	19,341	0.40	11,872	0.27	9,220	0.22	Slovenian
Srpski	207,300	4.33	44,629	1.01	52,879	1.23	Serbian
Srpsko-hrvatski	288,578	6.03	4,961	0.11	7,822	0.18	Serbo-Croatian
Talijanski	26,580	0.56	20,521	0.46	18,573	0.43	Italian
Turski	492	0.01	347	0.01	342	0.01	Turkish
Ukrajinski	1,430	0.03	1,027	0.02	1,008	0.02	Ukrainian
Vlaški	129	0.00	7	0.00	14	0.00	Vlach
Hebrejski	23	0.00	8	0.00	30	0.00	Hebrew
Ostali jezici	7,496	0.16	2,824	0.06	5,367	0.13	Other languages

Nepoznato	64,415	1.35	16,709	0.38	9,329	0.22	Unknown
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Population by mother tongue – detailed classification – 2011 census
(Croatian Bureau of Statistics)

Materinski jezik	Mother tongue	Ukupno Total
Republika Hrvatska	Republic of Croatia	4,284,889
Hrvatski	Croatian	4,096,305
Hrvatsko-srpski	Croato-Serbian	3,059
Albanski	Albanian	17,069
Bosanski	Bosnian	16,856
Bugarski	Bulgarian	293
Crnogorski	Montenegrin	876
Češki	Czech	6,292
Mađarski	Hungarian	10,231
Makedonski	Macedonian	3,519
Njemački	German	2,986
Poljski	Polish	639
Romski	Romani	14,369
Rumunjski	Romanian	955
Ruski	Russian	1,592
Rusinski	Ruthenian	1,472
Slovački	Slovak	3,792
Slovenski	Slovenian	9,220
Srpski	Serbian	52,879
Srpsko-hrvatski	Serbo-Croatian	7,822
Talijanski	Italian	18,573
Turski	Turkish	342
Ukrajinski	Ukrainian	1,008
Vlaški	Vlach	14
Hebrejski	Hebrew	30
Flamanski	Flemish	41
Bjeloruski	Belarusian	26
Danski	Danish	21
Engleski	English	1,644
Finski	Finnish	31
Francuski	French	522
Irski	Irish	2
Nizozemski	Dutch	206
Norveški	Norwegian	23
Portugalski	Portuguese	130
Španjolski	Spanish	477

Švedski	Swedish	65
Grčki	Greek	85
Materinski jezik	Mother tongue	Ukupno Total
Litavski	Lithuanian	18
Letonski	Latvian	15
Estonski	Estonian	13
Moldavski	Moldavian	54
Goranski	Goranski	405
Arapski	Arabic	501
Armenski	Armenian	23
Hindi	Hindi	27
Kineski	Chinese	495
Japanski	Japanese	50
Korejski	Korean	23
Perzijski	Persian	25
Gruzijski	Georgian	19
Filipinski/tagalog	Filipino/tagalog	53
Ostali jezici	Other languages	373
Nepoznato	Unknown	9,329

Appendix 3. Fund for Promotion of Pluralism and Diversity in the Electronic Media – National Minorities in the Republic of Croatia category – 2014–2018 overview

2014 – Fund for Promotion of Pluralism and Diversity in the Electronic Media – National Minorities in the Republic of Croatia category – overview of programmes/content with the name of the media-service provider, name of the programme within the National Minorities in the RoC category, and the allocated amount:

FUND 1/14

Name of broadcaster	Name of programme	Funds allocated for 2014 (HRK)
Fantastično dobra institucija - Fade In	Povratak (Return)	107,265.00
Građanska inicijativa NG Buntovnici	Zajedno u bogatstvu različitosti (Together in a Wealth of Diversity)	79,155.00

FUND 2/14

Name of broadcaster	Name of programme	Funds allocated for 2014 (HRK)
Ka-Vision d.o.o.	Iver (Splinter)	213,267.00
Mijor d.o.o.	Glas manjina (Voice of Minorities)	198,511.00
Nezavisna televizija d.o.o.	Manjine u medijama (Minorities in the Media)	169,445.00
Oar d.o.o.	Latharok	207,424.00
Televizija Dalmacija d.o.o.	Zajedno (Together)	134,387.00
Televizija Primorja i Gorskog Kotara d.o.o.	Prvi među jednakima: Manjine (First Among Equals: Minorities)	160,681.00
TV Nova d.o.o.	Comunita	163,602.00
Vox d.o.o.	Suživot (Coexistence)	128,545.00
VTV d.o.o.	Objectiv (Lens)	105,000.00

FUND 3/14

Name of broadcaster	Name of programme	Funds allocated for 2014 (HRK)
Cik Dr. Božo Milanović d.o.o.	Microfono aperto (Open Microphone)	32,594.00
Difuzija d.o.o.	Spectar (Spectrum)	28,000.00

Glas Podravine d.o.o.	Civilian	31,016.00
Glas Slavonije d.d	D-funk	32,227.00
Gradski radio d.o.o.	Ujedinjeni u različitosti (United in Diversity)	30,318.00
Hilaris d.o.o.	Zajedno (Together)	27,235.00
Hrvatski Radio Vukovar d.o.o.	Mozaik 8 (Mosaic 8)	28,703.00
Ilok ton d.o.o.	Vysielanie v slovenskej reči	28,201.00
Infantinfo d.o.o.	U manjini (In a Minority)	31,126.00
Informativni centar Virovitica d.o.o.	Nek se čuje i naš glas (Let Our Voice be Heard, Too)	28,000.00
Krugoval 93,1 MHZ d.o.o.	Konac (Thread)	26,721.00
Kult radio d.o.o.	Nacionalno blago (National Treasure)	26,721.00
Moslavački list d.o.o.	Mozaik (Mosaic)	20,000.00
Novi radio d.o.o.	Most (Bridge)	10,000.00
Radio Banovina d.o.o.	Manjine u zajednici (Minorities in the Community)	27,969.00
Radio Banska Kosa d.o.o.	Istočni tokovi (Eastern Currents)	29,800.00
Radio Baranja d.o.o.	Baranjske manjine (Baranja's Minorities)	33,255.00
Radio Daruvar d.o.o.	Česke vysílání	41,917.00
Radio Grubišno Polje d.o.o.	Češka reč	27,602.00
Radio Labin d.o.o.	Settimanalle Albonese	34,576.00
Radio Našice d.o.o.	Kvapka slovenskeho života	26,427.00
Radio Otok Krk d.o.o.	To smo mi (This is us)	25,547.00
Radio Pitomača d.o.o.	Bogatstvo različitosti nacionalni manjina (Wealth of Diversity of National Minorities)	24,445.00
Radio postaja Novska d.o.o.	Naši korijeni (Our Roots)	22,890.00
Radio Psunja d.o.o.	Nacionalne manjine (National Minorities)	25,179.00
Rapsodija d.o.o.	Baština (Heritage)	27,909.00
Reful radio d.o.o.	Mostovi (Bridges)	20,000.00
Ross d.o.o.	Makedonska ura (Macedonian Hour)	12,204.00
Slavonska Posavina d.o.o.	Život, a ne suživot (Life, Not Mere Coexistence)	24,666.00
S-tel d.o.o.	Impuls	22,800.00

Sveučilište u Dubrovniku	Bogatstvu različitosti (Wealth of Diversity)	22,537.00
VFM d.o.o.	Spectar (Spectrum)	25,179.00
Županijska liga protiv raka – Split	Zraka sunca (Ray of Sunshine)	24,666.00

FUND 5/14

Name of broadcaster	Name of programme	Funds allocated for 2014 (HRK)
Hrvatski Radio Županja d.o.o.	Infokololaž (MO)	100.01
Miroslav Kraljević d.o.o.	Oko stola (At the Table)	9,318.81
MT eter d.o.o.	Rodna gruda (Native Soil)	2,600.60
Radio Đakovo d.o.o.	Večeras je naša pjesen	2,817.31
Radio Jaska d.o.o.	Mozaik (Mosaic)	2,167.16
Radio postaja Drniš d.o.o.	Kod kuće (At Home)	2,492.24
Slatinski informativni centar d.o.o.	Slovaci (Slovaks)	5,092.84

FUND 6/14

Name of broadcaster	Name of programme	Funds allocated for 2014 (HRK)
Udruga za promicanje medijskog pluralizma 808	Romsko popodne (Roma Afternoon)	18,811.56

2015 and 2016 – Fund for Promotion of Pluralism and Diversity in the Electronic Media – National Minorities in the Republic of Croatia category – overview of programmes/content with the name of the media-service provider, name of the programme within the National Minorities in the RoC category, and the allocated amount:

Name of broadcaster / name of programme	Funds allocated for 2015
CIK DR. BOŽO MILANOVIĆ d.o.o.	27,844.60
MICROFONO APERTO (OPEN MICROPHONE)	27,844.60
DIFUZIJA d.o.o.	16,754.34
SPEKTAR (SPECTRUM)	16,754.34
GLAS PODRAVINE d.o.o.	20,082.30
CIVILIAN	20,082.30
GRADSKI RADIO d.o.o.	21,170.41

UJEDINJENI U RAZLIČITOSTI (UNITED IN DIVERSITY)	21,170.41
Građanska inicijativa NG Buntovnici	6,750.17
Zajedno u bogatstvu različitosti (Together in a Wealth of Diversity)	6,750.17
HILARIS d.o.o.	18,554.12
ZAJEDNO (TOGETHER)	18,554.12
HRVATSKI RADIO - RADIO GOSPIĆ d.o.o.	13,371.50
Modus vivendi	13,371.50
HRVATSKI RADIO VUKOVAR d.o.o.	26,178.65
MOZAIK 8 (MOSAIC 8)	26,178.65
ILOK TON d.o.o.	11,240.03
VYSIELANIE V SLOVENSKEJ REČI	11,240.03
INFANTINFO d.o.o.	33,310.09
U MANJINI (IN A MINORITY)	33,310.09
INFORMATIVNI CENTAR VIROVITICA d.o.o.	13,743.79
Nek se čuje i naš glas (Let Our Voice be Heard, Too)	13,743.79
KRUGOVAL 93,1 MHZ d.o.o.	32,608.13
KONAC (THREAD)	32,608.13
KULT RADIO d.o.o.	18,165.13
NACIONALNO BLAGO (NATIONAL TREASURE)	18,165.13
MIROSLAV KRALJEVIĆ d.o.o.	12,738.86
OKO STOLA (AT THE TABLE)	12,738.86
MOSLAVAČKI LIST d.o.o.	11,453.16
MOZAIK (MOSAIC)	11,453.16
NOVI RADIO d.o.o.	19,143.14
MOST (BRIDGE)	19,143.14
RADIO BANOVINI d.o.o.	13,612.90
Manjine u zajednici (Minorities in the Community)	13,612.90
RADIO BANSKA KOSA d.o.o.	11,230.64
ISTOČNI TOKOVI (EASTERN CURRENTS)	11,230.64
RADIO BARANJA d.o.o.	22,808.15
BARANJSKE MANJINE (MINORITIES OF BARANJA)	22,808.15
RADIO DARUVAR d.o.o.	39,398.87
ČESKÉ VYSÍLÁNÍ	39,398.87
RADIO ĐAKOVO d.o.o.	21,272.77
ZVEČERA JE NAŠA PIESEN	21,272.77
RADIO GRUBIŠNO POLJE d.o.o.	19,143.14
ČEŠKA REČ	19,143.14
RADIO LABIN d.o.o.	34,333.25

SETTIMANALE ALBONESE	34,333.25
RADIO NAŠICE d.o.o.	15,707.19
KVAPKA SLOVENSKEHO ŽIVOTA	15,707.19
RADIO OTOK KRK d.o.o.	14,725.49
TO SMO MI (THIS IS US)	14,725.49
RADIO PITOMAČA d.o.o.	17,670.59
EMISIJA NA MAĐARSKOM JEZIKU (PROGRAMME IN HUNGARIAN)	17,670.59
RADIO POSTAJA NOVSKA d.o.o.	14,859.00
NAŠI KORIJENI (OUR ROOTS)	14,859.00
RAPSODIJA d.o.o.	18,065.23
BAŠTINA (HERITAGE)	18,065.23
ROSS d.o.o.	3,479.81
MAKEDONSKA URA (MACEDONIAN HOUR)	3,479.81
SLATINSKI INFORMATIVNI CENTAR d.o.o.	13,089.33
Slovaci (Slovaks)	13,089.33
S-TEL d.o.o.	22,448.19
IMPULS	22,448.19
SVEUČILIŠTE U DUBROVNIKU	22,723.07
BOGATSTVO RAZLIČITOSTI (WEALTH OF DIVERSITY)	22,723.07
ŽUPANIJSKA LIGA PROTIV RAKA - SPLIT	10,726.70
ZRAKA SUNCA (RAY OF SUNSHINE)	10,726.70

	Funds allocated for 2016
Radio broadcasters, Fund 1/15	
CIK DR. BOŽO MILANOVIĆ d.o.o.	27,754.11
MICROFONO APERTO (OPEN MICROPHONE)	27,754.11
DIFUZIJA d.o.o.	16,699.89
SPEKTAR (SPECTRUM)	16,699.89
GLAS PODRAVINE d.o.o.	20,512.81
CIVILIAN	20,512.81
GRADSKI RADIO d.o.o.	21,101.61
UJEDINJENI U RAZLIČITOSTI (UNITED IN DIVERSITY)	21,101.61
Građanska inicijativa NG Buntovnici	13,456.46
Zajedno u bogatstvu različitosti (Together in a Wealth of Diversity)	13,456.46
HILARIS d.o.o.	18,493.82
ZAJEDNO	18,493.82

HRVATSKI RADIO - RADIO GOSPIĆ d.o.o.	13,049.93
Modus vivendi	13,049.93
HRVATSKI RADIO VUKOVAR d.o.o.	31,312.29
MOZAIK 8 (MOSAIC 8)	31,312.29
ILOK TON d.o.o.	11,203.50
VYSIELANIE V SLOVENSKEJ REČI	11,203.50
INFANTINFO d.o.o.	33,201.84
U MANJINI (IN A MINORITY)	33,201.84
INFORMATIVNI CENTAR VIROVITICA d.o.o.	13,699.13
Nek se čuje i naš glas (Let Our Voice be Heard, Too)	13,699.13
KRUGOVAL 93,1 MHZ d.o.o.	32,502.16
KONAC (THREAD)	32,502.16
KULT RADIO d.o.o.	17,685.03
NACIONALNO BLAGO (NATIONAL TREASURE)	17,685.03
MOSLAVAČKI LIST d.o.o.	11,415.94
MOZAIK (MOSAIC)	11,415.94
NOVI RADIO d.o.o.	19,080.93
MOST (BRIDGE)	19,080.93
RADIO BANSKA KOSA d.o.o.	11,194.14
ISTOČNI TOKOVI (EASTERN CURRENTS)	11,194.14
RADIO BARANJA d.o.o.	22,734.03
BARANJSKE MANJINE (MINORITIES OF BARANJA)	22,734.03
RADIO DARUVAR d.o.o.	39,270.83
ČESKÉ VYSÍLÁNÍ	39,270.83
RADIO ĐAKOVO d.o.o.	20,169.31
ZVEČERA JE NAŠA PIESEN	20,169.31
RADIO GRUBIŠNO POLJE d.o.o.	19,080.93
ČEŠKA REČ	19,080.93
RADIO LABIN d.o.o.	33,511.51
SETTIMANALE ALBONESE	33,511.51
RADIO NAŠICE d.o.o.	15,656.15
KVAPKA SLOVENSKEHO ŽIVOTA	15,656.15
RADIO OTOK KRK d.o.o.	14,677.64
TO SMO MI (THIS IS US)	14,677.64
RADIO PITOMAČA d.o.o.	23,484.22
EMISIJA NA MAĐARSKOM JEZIKU (PROGRAMME IN HUNGARIAN)	23,484.22
RADIO POSTAJA NOVSKA d.o.o.	14,810.71
NAŠI KORIJENI (OUR ROOTS)	14,810.71
RAPSODIJA d.o.o.	18,006.52

BAŠTINA (HERITAGE)	18,006.52
ROSS d.o.o.	3,468.50
MAKEDONSKA URA (MACEDONIAN HOUR)	3,468.50
SLATINSKI INFORMATIVNI CENTAR d.o.o.	13,046.79
Slovaci (Slovaks)	13,046.79
S-TEL d.o.o.	21,005.33
IMPULS	21,005.33
SVEUČILIŠTE U DUBROVNIKU	22,649.22
BOGATSTVO RAZLIČITOSTI (WEALTH OF DIVERSITY)	22,649.22

Radio broadcasters, Fund 2/15		Funds allocated for 2015
Kombel d.o.o.		3,659.11
Mostovi (Bridges)		3,659.11
RADIO PITOMAČA d.o.o.		5,660.67
ROMI U ZAJEDNICI (ROMA IN THE COMMUNITY)		5,660.67
REFUL RADIO d.o.o.		6,161.73
Mostovi (Bridges)		6,161.73

Radio broadcasters, Fund 2/15		Funds allocated for 2016
Kombel d.o.o.		4,423.43
Mostaovi (Bridges)		4,423.43
RADIO PITOMAČA d.o.o.		6,788.80
ROMI U ZAJEDNICI (ROMA IN THE COMMUNITY)		6,788.80
REFUL RADIO d.o.o.		5,014.46
Mostovi (Bridges)		5,014.46

Television broadcasters, Fund 2/15		Funds allocated for 2015
KA-VISION d.o.o.		251,905.86
IVER (SPLINTER)		251,905.86
NEZAVISNA TELEVIZIJA d.o.o.		121,549.27
MANJINE U MEDIJIMA (MINORITIES IN THE MEDIA)		121,549.27
OAR d.o.o.		78,852.54
LATHATAROK		78,852.54
OTVORENA TELEVIZIJA ZAGREB d.d.		211,526.08
MANJE JE VIŠE (LESS IS MORE)		211,526.08
TELEVIZIJA DALMACIJA d.o.o.		124,553.45

ZAJEDNO (TEGETHER)	124,553.45
TELEVIZIJA PRIMORJA I GORSKOG KOTARA d.o.o.	74,830.86
PRVI MEĐU JEDNAKIMA: MANJINE (FIRST AMONG EQUALS: MINORITIES)	74,830.86
TV ISTRA D.O.O.	107,793.04
STORIE SENZA CONFINE (STORIES WITHOUT BORDERS)	107,793.04
TV NOVA d.o.o.	180,656.02
COMUNITA (THE COMMUNITY)	180,656.02
VTV d.o.o.	90,019.30
OBJEKTIV (LENS)	90,019.30
Z1 TELEVIZIJA d.o.o.	163,236.38
NACIONALNE MANJINE (NATIONAL MINORITIES)	163,236.38
Television broadcasters, Fund 2/15	
Funds allocated for 2016	
DUBROVACKA TELEVIZIJA d.o.o.	131,673.52
BUMBETA	131,673.52
KA-VISION d.o.o.	228,598.98
IVER (SPLINTER)	228,598.98
NEZAVISNA TELEVIZIJA d.o.o.	112,058.32
MANJINE U MEDIJIMA (MINORITIES IN THE MEDIA)	112,058.32
OAR d.o.o.	77,047.80
LATHATAROK	77,047.80
OTVORENA TELEVIZIJA ZAGREB d.d.	208,834.03
MANJE JE VIŠE (LESS IS MORE)	208,834.03
TELEVIZIJA DALMACIJA d.o.o.	122,871.95
ZAJEDNO (TOGETHER)	122,871.95
TELEVIZIJA PRIMORJA I GORSKOG KOTARA d.o.o.	114,994.25
PRVI MEĐU JEDNAKIMA: MANJINE (FIRST AMONG EQUALS: MINORITIES)	114,994.25
TV ISTRA D.O.O.	321,095.60
STORIE SENZA CONFINE (STORIES WITHOUT BORDERS)	321,095.60
TV NOVA d.o.o.	163,941.33
COMUNITA (THE COMMUNITY)	163,941.33
VTV d.o.o.	89,422.54
OBJEKTIV (LENS)	89,422.54
Z1 TELEVIZIJA d.o.o.	151,353.68

NACIONALNE MANJINE (NATIONAL MINORITIES)	151,353.68
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2017 and 2018 – Fund for Promotion of Pluralism and Diversity in the Electronic Media – National Minorities in the Republic of Croatia category – overview of programmes/content with the name of the media-service provider, name of the programme within the National Minorities in the RoC category, and the allocated amount:

Television broadcasters, Fund 2/17	Funds allocated for 2017
Television	907,172.44
KA-VISION d.o.o.	115,916.48
IVER (SPLINTER)	115,916.48
OAR d.o.o.	120,956.33
ETNIKUM	120,956.33
TV ISTRA D.O.O.	163,795.02
STORIE SENZA CONFINE (STORIES WITHOUT BORDERS)	163,795.02
TV NOVA d.o.o.	171,354.79
COMUNITA (COMMUNITY)	171,354.79
Z1 TELEVIZIJA d.o.o.	156,235.25
NACIONALNE MANJINE (NATIONAL MINORITIES)	156,235.25

Radio broadcasters Fund 1/17	Funds allocated for 2017
CIK DR. BOŽO MILANOVIĆ d.o.o.	27,807.93
MICROFONO APERTO (OPEN MICROPHONE)	27,807.93
DIFUZIJA d.o.o.	24,766.44
SPEKTAR (SPECTRUM)	24,766.44
GLAS PODRAVINE d.o.o.	27,373.43
CIVILIAN	27,373.43
GRADSKI RADIO d.o.o.	26,069.94
UJEDINJENI U RAZLIČITOSTI (UNITED IN DIVERSITY)	26,069.94
HILARIS d.o.o.	22,159.45
ZAJEDNO (TOGETHER)	22,159.45
HRVATSKI RADIO KARLOVAC d.o.o.	19,117.95
ČAS ZA JEDNAKOST (MOMENT FOR EQUALITY)	19,117.95
HRVATSKI RADIO VUKOVAR d.o.o.	22,593.94
MOZAIK 8 (MOSAIC 8)	22,593.94
INFANTINFO d.o.o.	22,333.25
U MANJINI (IN A MINORITY)	22,333.25
INFORMATIVNI CENTAR VIROVITICA d.o.o.	32,152.92
Nek se čuje i naš glas (Let Our Voice be Heard, Too)	32,152.92
KRUGOVAL 93,1 MHZ d.o.o.	27,373.43
KONAC (THREAD)	27,373.43
KULT RADIO d.o.o.	30,849.42
NACIONALNO BLAGO (NATIONAL	30,849.42

TREASURE)	
MEDIA FI d.o.o.	27,807.93
Quatro ciacole in famia	27,807.93
MOSLAVAČKI LIST d.o.o.	20,000.00
MOZAIK (MOSAIC)	20,000.00
NOVI RADIO d.o.o.	24,331.94
MOST (BRIDGE)	24,331.94
NOVOSTI d.o.o.	24,592.64
MULTIKULTURA (MULTICULTURE)	24,592.64
PODRAVSKI RADIO d.o.o.	24,766.44
Manje je više (Less is More)	24,766.44
RADIO BANSKA KOSA d.o.o.	25,635.44
ISTOČNI TOKOVI (EASTERN CURRENTS)	25,635.44
RADIO BARANJA d.o.o.	27,547.23
BARANJSKE MANJINE (MINORITIES OF BARANJA)	27,547.23
RADIO DARUVAR d.o.o.	30,849.42
ČESKÉ VYSÍLÁNÍ	30,849.42
RADIO ĐAKOVO d.o.o.	28,503.13
ZVEČERA JE NAŠA PIESEN	28,503.13
RADIO GRUBIŠNO POLJE d.o.o.	23,984.34
ČEŠKA REČ	23,984.34
RADIO LABIN d.o.o.	28,503.13
SETTIMANALLE ALBONESE	28,503.13
RADIO NAŠICE d.o.o.	30,241.13
KVAPKA SLOVENSKEHO ŽIVOTA	30,241.13
RADIO OGULIN d.o.o.	28,242.43
MANJINE SU NAŠE BOGATSTVO (MINORITIES ARE OUR WEALTH)	28,242.43
RADIO PITOMAČA d.o.o.	27,807.93
EMISIJA NA MAĐARSKOM JEZIKU (PROGRAMME IN HUNGARIAN)	27,807.93
RADIO POSTAJA NOVSKA d.o.o.	26,938.93
NAŠI KORIJENI (OUR ROOTS)	26,938.93
Radio Prkos j.d.o.o.	18,335.86
Poštujmo različitosti (Respect for Diversity)	18,335.86
RADIO SISAK d.o.o.	30,675.63
MANJINSKI PARLAMENTARAC (THE MINORITY PARLIAMENTARIAN)	30,675.63
RAPSODIJA d.o.o.	25,200.94
BAŠTINA (HERITAGE)	25,200.94
SLATINSKI INFORMATIVNI CENTAR d.o.o.	21,290.45
Slovaci (Slovaks)	21,290.45
SVEUČILIŠTE U DUBROVNIKU	21,290.45
BOGATSTVO RAZLIČITOSTI (WEALTH OF	21,290.45

DIVERSITY)	
VANGA d.o.o.	19,117.95
MULTI DEMOS	19,117.95
Satelite, Internet	19,552.45
Multikulturalna medijska udruga "Srijem"	19,552.45
Identitet (Identity)	19,552.45
Electronic media publishers, Fund 1/17	Funds allocated for 2017
Romsko nacionalno vijeće, Lule Nikolić	90,606.99
ROMI.HR	90,606.99

Radio broadcasters, Fund 1/17		Funds allocated for 2018
CIK DR. BOŽO MILANOVIĆ d.o.o.		28,242.43
MICROFONO APERTO (OPEN MICROPHONE)		28,242.43
DIFUZIJA d.o.o.		24,766.44
SPEKTAR (SPECTRUM)		24,766.44
GLAS PODRAVINE d.o.o.		27,373.43
CIVILIAN		27,373.43
GRADSKI RADIO d.o.o.		26,069.94
UJEDINJENI U RAZLIČITOSTI (UNITED IN DIVERSITY)		26,069.94
HILARIS d.o.o.		22,159.45
ZAJEDNO (TOGETHER)		22,159.45
HRVATSKI RADIO KARLOVAC d.o.o.		19,117.95
ČAS ZA JEDNAKOST (MOMENT FOR EQUALITY)		19,117.95
HRVATSKI RADIO VUKOVAR d.o.o.		22,593.94
MOZAIK 8 (MOSAIC 8)		22,593.94
INFANTINFO d.o.o.		22,333.25
U MANJINI (IN A MINORITY)		22,333.25
INFORMATIVNI CENTAR VIROVITICA d.o.o.		32,152.92
Nek se čuje i naš glas (Let Our Voice be Heard, Too)		32,152.92
KRUGOVAL 93,1 MHZ d.o.o.		27,373.43
KONAC (THREAD)		27,373.43
KULT RADIO d.o.o.		30,849.42
NACIONALNO BLAGO (NATIONAL TREASURE)		30,849.42
MEDIA FI d.o.o.		27,807.93
Quatro ciacole in famia		27,807.93
MOSLAVAČKI LIST d.o.o.		20,000.00
MOZAIK (MOSAIC)		20,000.00
MT ETER D.O.O.		17,379.96
RODNA GRUDA (NA JEZICIMA MANJINACA) (NATIVE SOIL – IN MINORITY LANGUAGES)		17,379.96

NOVI RADIO d.o.o.	24,331.94
MOST (BRIDGE)	24,331.94
NOVOSTI d.o.o.	24,592.64
MULTIKULTURA (MULTICULTURE)	24,592.64
PODRAVSKI RADIO d.o.o.	24,766.44
Manje je više (Less is More)	24,766.44
RADIO BANSKA KOSA d.o.o.	25,635.44
ISTOČNI TOKOVI (EASTERN FLOWS)	25,635.44
RADIO BARANJA d.o.o.	27,547.23
BARANJSKE MANJINE (MINORITIES OF BARANJA)	27,547.23
RADIO DARUVAR d.o.o.	30,849.42
ČESKÉ VYSÍLÁNÍ	30,849.42
RADIO ĐAKOVO d.o.o.	28,503.13
VEČERAS JE NAŠA PIESEN	28,503.13
RADIO GRUBIŠNO POLJE d.o.o.	23,723.64
ČEŠKA REČ	23,723.64
RADIO LABIN d.o.o.	28,503.13
SETTIMANALLE ALBONESE	28,503.13
RADIO NAŠICE d.o.o.	30,241.13
KVAPKA SLOVENSKEHO ŽIVOTA	30,241.13
RADIO OGULIN d.o.o.	28,242.43
MANJINE SU NAŠE BOGATSTVO (MINORITIES ARE OUR WEALTH)	28,242.43
RADIO PITOMAČA d.o.o.	27,807.93
EMISIJA NA MAĐARSKOM JEZIKU (PROGRAMME IN HUNGARIAN)	27,807.93
RADIO POSTAJA NOVSKA d.o.o.	26,938.93
NAŠI KORIJENI (OUR ROOTS)	26,938.93
Radio Prkos j.d.o.o.	18,335.86
Poštujmo različitosti (Respect for Diversity)	18,335.86
RADIO SISAK d.o.o.	30,675.63
MANJINSKI PARLAMENTARAC (THE MINORITY PARLIAMENTARIAN)	30,675.63
RAPSODIJA d.o.o.	25,200.94
BAŠTINA (HERITAGE)	25,200.94
SLATINSKI INFORMATIVNI CENTAR d.o.o.	21,290.45
Slovaci (Slovaks)	21,290.45
SVEUČILIŠTE U DUBROVNIKU	21,290.45
BOGATSTVO RAZLIČITOSTI (WEALTH OF DIVERSITY)	21,290.45
VANGA d.o.o.	36,671.71
CIVILKA	17,553.76
MULTI DEMOS	19,117.95
Multikulturalna medijska udruga "Srijem"	19,552.45

Identitet (Identity)	19,552.45
ZDRUG KATOLIČKIH SKAU A HRVATSKE	18,162.06
Luka različitosti (Port of Diversity)	18,162.06
Funds allocated for 2018	
Television broadcasters, Fund 2/17	
KA-VISION d.o.o.	115,916.48
IVER (SPLINTER)	115,916.48
OAR d.o.o.	120,956.33
ETNIKUM	120,956.33
OTVORENA TELEVIZIJA ZAGREB d.d.	178,914.56
MANJE JE VIŠE (LESS IS MORE)	178,914.56
TV ISTRA D.O.O.	163,795.02
STORIE SENZA CONFINE (STORIES WITHOUT BORDERS)	163,795.02
TV NOVA d.o.o.	171,354.79
COMUNITA (THE COMMUNITY)	171,354.79
Z1 TELEVIZIJA d.o.o.	156,235.25
NACIONALNE MANJINE (NATIONAL MINORITIES)	156,235.25
Funds allocated for 2018	
Electronic media publishers, Fund 1/17	
Romsko nacionalno vijeće, Lule Nikolić	90,606.99
ROMI.HR	90,606.99

The total amount allocated to the Fund beneficiaries for the National Minorities in the Republic of Croatia category during the period 2014-2018: HRK 11,238,017.28.



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

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Appendix 4. Overview of allocations made from the central budget of the Republic of Croatia to national minority associations and organizations through the Council for National Minorities for the period 2014-2018 – The Council corrected the amounts for 2018 due to the reimbursement of funds to the budget in compliance with an instruction from the Ministry of Finance.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	TOTAL
I. ALBANIANS						2014 - 2018
1. UNION OF ALBANIAN COMMUNITIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA, ZAGREB	380,000.00	509,000.00	414,000.00	405,000.00	444,000.00	2,152,000.00
2. QUEEN TEUTA CLUB OF ALBANIAN WOMEN, Zagreb	80,000.00	100,000.00	70,000.00	85,000.00	100,000.00	435,000.00
3. FORUM OF ALBANIAN INTELLECTUALS IN CROATIA	42,000.00	52,000.00	46,000.00	42,000.00	40,000.00	222,000.00
4. AKDH "SHKENDIJA", ZAGREB	105,000.00	140,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00	70,000.00	515,000.00
5. INTERCOUNTY COMMUNITY OF ALBANIANS IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA – ZADAR	15,000.00	64,000.00	42,000.00	34,000.00	35,000.00	190,000.00
6. DRITA ASSOCIATION OF ALBANIAN WOMEN IN ZAGREB, ZAGREB				8,000.00	15,000.00	23,000.00
7. SOCIETY OF ALBANIAN ARTISTS IN CROATIA - DEA, Zagreb					13,000.00	13,000.00

8. MERGIMTARI ALBANIAN DRAMA SOCIETY IN CROATIA, Zagreb					30,000.00	30,000.00
ALBANIANS IN TOTAL:	622,000.00	865,000.00	672,000.00	674,000.00	747,000.00	3,580,000.00
II. BOSNIAKS						
I. PREPOROD CULTURAL SOCIETY OF BOSNIAKS IN CROATIA						
2. BOSNIAK NATIONAL COMMUNITY OF CROATIA	645,000.00	790,000.00	680,000.00	620,000.00	600,000.00	3,335,000.00
3. BOSNIAK NATIONAL COMMUNITY IN THE COUNTY OF SISAK-MOSLAVINA	30,000.00	55,000.00	55,000.00	60,000.00	120,000.00	320,000.00
4. BOSNIAK NATIONAL COMMUNITY IN THE COUNTY OF PRIMORJE-GORSKI KOTAR	70,000.00	90,000.00	70,000.00	65,000.00	75,000.00	370,000.00
5. BOSNIA CULTURAL CLUB OF ISTRIA COUNTY						
6. NUR BOSNIAK CULTURAL CLUB, SISAK	22,000.00	80,000.00	55,000.00	45,000.00	72,000.00	274,000.00
7. BEHAR BOSNIAK CULTURAL CLUB, GUNJA	22,000.00	70,000.00	60,000.00	60,000.00		212,000.00
8. SELAM CULTURAL CLUB, DUBROVNIK	52,000.00	105,000.00	90,000.00	100,000.00	90,000.00	437,000.00
9. SEVDAH CULTURAL CLUB, ZAGREB	50,000.00	60,000.00				110,000.00
10. BOSNIAK NATIONAL COMMUNITY OF THE CITY OF ZAGREB AND THE COUNTY OF ZAGREB	30,000.00	49,000.00	45,000.00			124,000.00
11. BOSNIAK NATIONAL COMMUNITY OF ISTRIA, PULA	60,000.00	147,000.00	120,000.00	120,000.00	100,000.00	547,000.00
	300,000.00	304,000.00	285,000.00	305,000.00	300,000.00	1,494,000.00
	30,000.00	90,000.00	65,000.00	65,000.00	60,000.00	310,000.00

12. SABAH UNION OF BOSNIAK ASSOCIATIONS, Zagreb	180,000.00	215,000.00	185,000.00	190,000.00	220,000.00	990,000.00
13. BOSNIAK NATIONAL COMMUNITY OF ZADAR COUNTY	35,000.00	72,000.00	56,000.00	40,000.00	50,500.00	253,500.00
14. LJILJAN BOSNIAK CULTURAL CLUB, DRENOVCI	35,000.00	60,000.00	60,000.00	60,000.00	55,000.00	270,000.00
15. PREPOROD BOSNIAK CULTURAL CLUB, DUBROVNIK	28,000.00	74,000.00	60,000.00	65,000.00	11.250,00	238,250.00
16. ASSOCIATION OF YOUNG BOSNIAKS AND FRIENDS IN THE CITY OF RIJEKA AND THE COUNTY OF PRIMORJE-GORSKI KOTAR, RIJEKA		210,000.00	60,000.00	45,000.00	60,000.00	375,000.00
17. BOSNIAK NATIONAL COMMUNITY OF PULA		40,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	45,000.00	145,000.00
18. BOSNIAK NATIONAL COMMUNITY, BUZET		25,000.00	15,000.00	30,000.00	40,000.00	110,000.00
19. SRMA BOSNIAK CULTURAL CLUB, UMAG				10,000.00		10,000.00
20. BOSNA CULTURAL CLUB OF THE COUNTY OF ISTRIA, Pula					70,000.00	70,000.00
21. LJILJAN CULTURAL CLUB OF BOSNIAKS AND FRIENDS OF B&H, Viškovo				10,000.00		10,000.00
22. PREPOROD BOSNIAK CULTURAL CLUB, Split					33,750.00	33,750.00
BOSNIAKS IN TOTAL:	1,589,000.00	2,536,000.00	1,991,000.00	1,910,000.00	2,020,500.00	10,028,500.00
III. BULGARIANS						
1. NATIONAL COMMUNITY OF BULGARIANS IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA, ZAGREB	87,000.00	87,000.00	80,000.00	85,000.00	100,000.00	439,000.00

BULGARIANS IN TOTAL:	87,000.00	87,000.00	80,000.00	85,000.00	100,000.00	439,000.00
IV. MONTENEGRINS						
1. NATIONAL COMMUNITY OF MONTENEGRINS OF CROATIA	600,000.00	602,000.00	571,000.00	566,000.00	571,500.00	2,910,500.00
ZAGREB						
2. MONTENEGRO-MONTENEGRINA CULTURAL CLUB AND FRIENDS OF MONTENEGRO IN THE RoC, BELI MANASTIR	8,000.00	8,000.00	7,000.00	8,000.00		31,000.00
3. ALLIANCE OF MONTENEGRINS IN CROATIA, RIJEKA		10,000.00	15,000.00	20,000.00		45,000.00
MONTENEGRINS IN TOTAL:	608,000.00	620,000.00	593,000.00	594,000.00	571,500.00	2,986,500.00
V. CZECHS						
1. JEDNOTA PUBLISHING HOUSE, DARUVAR	1,593,000.00	1,592,000.00	1,451,000.00	1,523,000.00	1,518,000.00	7,677,000.00
2. CZECH ALLIANCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA, DARUVAR	1,485,000.00	1,507,000.00	1,369,000.00	1,302,000.00	1,486,000.00	7,149,000.00
CZECHS IN TOTAL:	3,078,000.00	3,099,000.00	2,820,000.00	2,825,000.00	3,004,000.00	14,826,000.00
VI. HUNGARIANS						
1. DEMOCRATIC UNION OF HUNGARIANS OF CROATIA, OSIJEK	1,443,000.00	1,464,000.00	1,317,000.00	2,696,000.00	3,449,000.00	10,369,000.00

2. UNION OF HUNGARIAN ASSOCIATIONS, ZAGREB	2,414,000.00	2,417,000.00	1,438,000.00			6,269,000.00
3. ADY ENDRE HUNGARIAN CULTURAL CLUB, ZAGREB	42,000.00	43,000.00	45,000.00	65,000.00	78,000.00	273,000.00
4. BARANYAI JULIA OPEN UNIVERSITY, BELI MANASTIR			690,000.00	533,000.00		1,223,000.00
5. ADY ENDRE CULTURAL CLUB, KOROĐ				30,000.00	20,000.00	50,000.00
6. UNION OF HUNGARIANS OF GRUBIŠNO POLJE				15,000.00	15,000.00	30,000.00
7. YOUTH ASSOCIATION FOR FOSTERING HUNGARIAN CUSTOMS, NOVI BEZDAN				20,000.00		20,000.00
8. PELMONOSTOR HUNGARIAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION, BELI MANASTIR				38,000.00	40,000.00	78,000.00
9. COMMUNITY OF HUNGARIANS OF THE COUNTY OF SISAK-MOSLAVINA				10,000.00		10,000.00
10. MORICZ ZSIGMOND HUNGARIAN CULTURAL CLUB, PULA				15,000.00		15,000.00
11. NEPKOR MACEDONIAN CULTURAL CLUB, OSIJEK				39,000.00	100,000.00	139,000.00
12. ASSOCIATION FOR FOSTERING HUNGARIAN CUSTOMS, STARI JANKOVCI				30,000.00	15,000.00	45,000.00
13. HUNGARIAN COMMUNITY, DEŽANOVAC				15,000.00	50,000.00	65,000.00
14. PETOFI ŠANDOR CULTURAL CLUB, VARDARAC				20,000.00		20,000.00
15. PETOFI ŠANDOR CULTURAL CLUB, KOTLINA				20,000.00	15,000.00	35,000.00
16. PETOFI ŠANDOR CULTURAL CLUB, ČAKOVCI				20,000.00	10,000.00	30,000.00
17. HUNGARIAN CULTURE AND ARTS ASSOCIATION, DARDA				30,000.00	20,000.00	50,000.00

18. DOZSA GYORGY HUNGARIAN CULTURAL CLUB, HRASTIN				20,000.00		20,000.00
19. CULTURAL CLUB FOR FOSTERING HUNGARIAN CUSTOMS, PODOLJE				13,000.00		13,000.00
20. KISKOSZEG HUNGARIAN CULTURAL CLUB, Batina					11,000.00	11,000.00
21. COMMUNITY OF HUNGARIANS OF THE TOWN OF BJELOVAR					12,000.00	12,000.00
HUNGARIANS IN TOTAL:	3,899,000.00	3,924,000.00	3,490,000.00	3,629,000.00	3,835,000.00	18,777,000.00
VII. MACEDONIANS						
1. COMMUNITY OF MACEDONIANS IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA, ZAGREB	637,000.00	659,000.00	618,000.00	619,000.00	672,000.00	3,205,000.00
2. KRSTE MISIRKOV MADECONIAN CULTURAL CLUB, ZAGREB	27,000.00	25,000.00				52,000.00
MACEDONIANS IN TOTAL:	664,000.00	684,000.00	618,000.00	619,000.00	672,000.00	3,257,000.00
VIII. GERMANS AND AUSTRIANS						
1. COMMUNITY OF GERMANS IN CROATIA, ZAGREB	117,000.00	125,000.00	110,000.00	100,000.00	120,000.00	572,000.00
2. NATIONAL UNION OF GERMANS OF CROATIA, ZAGREB	16,000.00	16,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	20,000.00	82,000.00
3. ASSOCIATION OF GERMANS AND AUSTRIANS, VUKOVAR	28,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	40,000.00	158,000.00

4. GERMAN PEOPLE'S UNION – NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DANUBIAN SCHWABIANS						
IN CROATIA, OSIJEK	465,000.00	475,000.00	423,000.00	455,000.00	455,000.00	2,273,000.00
5. COMMUNITY OF AUSTRIANS IN CROATIA, ZAGREB		25,000.00	35,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	90,000.00
GERMANS AND AUSTRIANS IN TOTAL:	626,000.00	671,000.00	613,000.00	615,000.00	650,000.00	3,175,000.00
IX. POLES						
1. MIKOLAJ KOPERNIK POLISH CULTURAL ASSOCIATION, ZAGREB	86,000.00	81,000.00	85,000.00	88,000.00	87,000.00	427,000.00
2. FRYDERYK CHOPIN POLISH CULTURAL ASSOCIATION, RIJEKA		17,000.00				17,000.00
3. POLONEZ POLISH CULTURAL ASSOCIATION, KAŠTEL STARI	7,000.00	17,000.00	13,000.00	12,000.00	13,000.00	62,000.00
POLES IN TOTAL:	93,000.00	115,000.00	98,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00	506,000.00
X. ROMA						
1. ROMA ASSOCIATION OF ZAGREB AND THE COUNTY OF ZAGREB	65,000.00	45,000.00	40,000.00			150,000.00
2. DARDA ROMA CULTURAL CLUB, DARDA	55,000.00	45,000.00	33,000.00	33,000.00	58,000.00	224,000.00
3. ASSOCIATION OF ROMA YOUTH OF CROATIA	7,000.00	7,000.00	5,000.00			19,000.00
4. ROMA YOUTH CLUB OF CROATIA	7,000.00	7,000.00				14,000.00

5. ROMA WAYS/ROMANE DROMA ASSOCIATION OF CROATIA, ZAGREB	31,000.00	35,000.00	30,000.00			96,000.00
6. WORLD ORGANIZATION OF ROMA CHARITY	100,000.00	70,000.00	70,000.00			240,000.00
7. ROMANI HEART CULTURAL CLUB, ZAGREB	20,000.00	15,000.00				35,000.00
8. ROMA ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND A BETTER LIFE, SISAK	7,000.00	7,000.00	7,000.00			21,000.00
9. LUDARI ASSOCIATION OF ROMA OF ROMANIAN ORIGIN, SLAVONSKI BROD	7,000.00	14,000.00				21,000.00
10. BLACK PEARLS CULTURAL CLUB, SISAK	7,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00			27,000.00
11. KALI SARA ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF ROMA EDUCATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA - KALI SARA UNION OF ROMA IN THE RoC	165,000.00	195,000.00	175,000.00	265,000.00	270,000.00	1,070,000.00
12. ASSOCIATION OF BAYASH ROMA OF THE COUNTY OF SISAK-MOSLAVINA	12,000.00					12,000.00
13. ROMA CULTURAL CENTRE, SISAK	20,000.00	34,000.00	22,000.00	20,000.00	30,000.00	126,000.00
14. BETTER FUTURE ASSOCIATION OF ROMA WOMEN, ZAGREB	87,000.00	90,000.00	80,000.00	70,000.00	65,000.00	392,000.00
15. ROMANI HEART ASSOCIATION OF ROMA WOMEN, JAGODNJAK	10,000.00					10,000.00
16. ROMA RIGHTS, SISAK	21,000.00	22,000.00	10,000.00			53,000.00
17. UNITY ROMA COMMUNITY OF THE COUNTY OF PRIMORJE-GORSKI KOTAR, RIJEKA	7,000.00					7,000.00
18. KUTINA PEARLS CULTURAL CLUB, KUTINA	7,000.00	12,000.00	7,000.00			26,000.00
19. ASSOCIATION OF BARANJA ROMA, BELI MANASTIR	17,000.00	22,000.00	15,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	74,000.00

20. ASSOCIATION OF BAYASH ROMA, KUTINA	7,000.00					7,000.00
21. PALANJEK ROMA ASSOCIATION, SISAK	7,000.00					7,000.00
22. ROMA NATIONAL FORUM, ČAKOVEC		25,000.00				25,000.00
23. ROMA NATIONAL FORUM, BELI MANASTIR			10,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	50,000.00
24. TRAIPE ASSOCIATION FOR A BETTER LIFE OF ROMA, ZAGREB			40,000.00			40,000.00
25. STEP BY STEP ROMA ASSOCIATION				50,000.00	50,000.00	100,000.00
ROMA IN TOTAL:	666,000.00	655,000.00	554,000.00	468,000.00	503,000.00	2,846,000.00
XI. RUSSIANS						
1. NATIONAL COMMUNITY OF RUSSIANS IN CROATIA, ZAGREB	73,000.00	78,000.00	70,000.00	40,000.00	60,000.00	321,000.00
2. KALINKA MEĐIMURJE RUSSOPHONE ASSOCIATION, ČAKOVEC	57,000.00	67,000.00	67,000.00	73,000.00	86,000.00	350,000.00
3. UNION OF RUSSIANS IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA, ZAGREB	20,000.00	28,000.00	43,000.00	75,000.00	75,000.00	241,000.00
4. KATYUSHA RUSSIAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION				5,000.00	7,000.00	12,000.00
RUSSIANS IN TOTAL:	150,000.00	173,000.00	180,000.00	193,000.00	228,000.00	924,000.00
XII. RUTHENIANS AND UKRAINIANS						
1. UNION OF RUTHENIANS AND UKRAINIANS						
IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA, VUKOVAR	668,000.00	683,500.00	620,000.00	606,000.00	632,000.00	3,209,500.00

2. UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY IN THE RoC	622,000.00	642,000.00	595,000.00	605,000.00	640,000.00	3,104,000.00
3. RUSNAK SOCIETY OF RUTHENIANS IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA, PETROVCI	8,000.00	13,000.00	13,000.00	13,000.00	25,000.00	72,000.00
4. SOCIETY FOR UKRAINIAN CULTURE, ZAGREB	13,000.00	14,000.00	14,000.00	17,000.00		58,000.00
RUTHENIANS AND UKRAINIANS IN TOTAL	1,298,000.00	1,338,500.00	1,242,000.00	1,241,000.00	1,297,000.00	6,416,500.00
XIII. SLOVAKS						
1. UNION OF SLOVAKS, NAŠICE	1,327,000.00	1,347,000.00	1,245,000.00	1,243,000.00	1,326,000.00	6,488,000.00
2. SLOVAK CULTURAL CENTRE, NAŠICE				12,000.00	13,000.00	25,000.00
SLOVAKS IN TOTAL:	1,327,000.00	1,347,000.00	1,245,000.00	1,255,000.00	1,339,000.00	6,513,000.00
XIV. SLOVENIANS						
1. UNION OF SLOVENIAN ASSOCIATIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA, ZAGREB	674,000.00	684,000.00	633,000.00	633,000.00	672,000.00	3,296,000.00
SLOVENIANS IN TOTAL:	674,000.00	684,000.00	633,000.00	633,000.00	672,000.00	3,296,000.00
XV. SERBS						
1. PROSVJETA SERBIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY, Zagreb	4,266,000.00	4,266,000.00	3,815,000.00	3,900,000.00	4,375,000.00	20,622,000.00
2. SERBIAN DEMOCRATIC FORUM, ZAGREB	615,000.00	635,000.00	400,000.00			1,650,000.00
3. SERBIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL, ZAGREB /NATIONAL COORDINATING BODY /	3,755,000.00	3,855,000.00	3,590,000.00	3,747,000.00	3,780,000.00	18,727,000.00

4. JOINT COUNCIL OF MUNICIPALITIES, VUKOVAR	691,000.00	767,000.00	683,000.00	715,000.00	642,000.00	3,498,000.00
5. ĐURĐEVDAN SERBIAN CULTURAL, ARTS AND SPIRITUAL SOCIETY, DREŽNICA	55,000.00	44,000.00	45,000.00	60,000.00	70,000.00	274,000.00
6. PRIVREDNIK SERBIAN ECONOMIC SOCIETY, ZAGREB	160,000.00	175,000.00	155,000.00	225,000.00	225,000.00	940,000.00
7. COMMUNITY OF SERBS IN ISTRIA, PULA		15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00		45,000.00
8. JOVAN LAZIĆ SERBIAN CULTURAL CLUB, BELI MANASTIR				35,000.00	60,000.00	95,000.00
9. GUARDIANS OF SERBIAN IDENTITY, Vukovar	20,000.00				75,000.00	95,000.00
SERBS IN TOTAL:	9,562,000.00	9,757,000.00	8,703,000.00	8,697,000.00	9,227,000.00	45,946,000.00
XVI. ITALIANS						
1. EDIT PUBLISHING HOUSE, Rijeka	5,215,000.00	5,215,000.00	4,945,000.00	4,945,000.00	5,125,362.50	25,445,362.50
2. CENTRE FOR HISTORIC RESEARCH, ROVINJ	750,000.00	760,000.00	650,000.00	650,000.00	750,000.00	3,560,000.00
3. ITALIAN DRAMA, RIJEKA IVAN ZAJC CROATIAN NATIONAL THEATRE	560,000.00	560,000.00	500,000.00			1,620,000.00
4. ITALIAN UNION, RIJEKA	808,000.00	827,000.00	705,000.00	705,000.00	800,000.00	3,845,000.00
ITALIANS IN TOTAL:	7,333,000.00	7,362,000.00	6,800,000.00	6,300,000.00	6,675,362.50	34,470,362.50
XVII. JEWS						
1. JEWISH COMMUNITY, ZAGREB	340,000.00	343,000.00	310,000.00	295,000.00	315,000.00	1,603,000.00

2. MIROSLAV ŠALOM FRAIBERGER CULTURAL CLUB, ZAGREB	72,000.00	80,000.00	80,000.00	90,000.00	100,000.00	422,000.00
3. ASSOCIATION OF HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS, ZAGREB	25,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	145,000.00
4. BET ISRAEL JEWISH RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY IN CROATIA	150,000.00	195,000.00	175,000.00	180,000.00	192,000.00	892,000.00
5. BEJAHAD JEWISH CULTURAL SCENE	54,000.00					54,000.00
6. CENDO RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION CENTRE, ZAGREB	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	45,000.00	125,000.00
JEWS IN TOTAL:	661,000.00	668,000.00	615,000.00	615,000.00	682,000.00	3,241,000.00
CULTURAL AUTONOMY PROGRAMMES OF NATIONAL MINORITY ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS IN TOTAL:	32,937,000.00	34,599,500.00	30,947,000.00	30,463,000.00	32,305,362.50	161,251,862.50
Assistance within the general budget:					900,000.00	
<i>CREATING CONDITIONS FOR THE EXERCISE OF CULTURAL AUTONOMY</i>						
ROMA	480,000.00	697,000.00	500,000.00	500,000.00		2,177,000.00
CURRENT ASSISTANCE TO THE CENTRAL BUDGET USERS					500,000.00	
DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING OF MEMBERS OF NATIONAL MINORITY COUNCILS AND REPRESENTATIVES	58,000.00	100,000.00	80,000.00			238,000.00
EXPENSES FOR SERVICES					264.786,60	
OTHER EXPENSES					28.654,50	

<i>COSTS OF THE 2015 ELECTION FOR NATIONAL MINORITY REPRESENTATIVES AND COUNCILS</i>		100,000.00				100,000.00
COSTS OF THE IT SYSTEM FOR CULTURAL AUTONOMY PROGRAMMES AND DOCUMENT ARCHIVING				100,000.00		100,000.00
JOINT PROGRAMMES	130,000.00	126,500.00	117,500.00			374,000.00
<i>"MINORITY FORUM" BIMONTHLY PUBLICATION</i>						
for national minority councils and representatives	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00			120,000.00
<i>COUNCIL'S WEB SITE</i>	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00			60,000.00
CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION WITH BODIES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS DEALING WITH NATIONAL MINORITY ISSUES AND RELEVANT BODIES OF COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN OF PERSONS BELONGING TO NATIONAL MINORITIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA	20,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00			50,000.00

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE REPUBLIC OF ITALY, FOR BUDGET BENEFICIARIES OF OTHER BUDGETS / ITALIAN DRAMA OF IVAN ZAJC CROATIAN NATIONAL THEATRE, RIJEKA				500,000.00		500,000.00
REIMBURSED FUNDS					87,000.00	
OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNCIL:				367,800.00		367,800.00
GRAND TOTAL:	33,698,000.00	35,690,500.00	31,819,500.00	31,830,800.00	34,085,803.60	167,124,603.60
GRAND TOTAL (€)	4,493,066.67	4,758,733.33	4,242,600.00	4,244,106.67	4,544,773.81	22,283,280.48



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

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Appendix 5. Decision on the Promulgation of the Act Ratifying the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

**CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES OF THE PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA**

Pursuant to Art. 89 of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia, hereby issue the following

DECISION

**ON THE PROMULGATION OF THE ACT RATIFYING THE FRAMEWORK
CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES**

I hereby proclaim this Act Ratifying the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, adopted by the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Republic of Croatia at its session of 19 September 1997.

No: 081-97-1512/I

Zagreb, 29 September 1997

President of the Republic of Croatia
Franjo Tuđman, PhD (*signed*)

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

Article 1

The Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, done at Strasbourg on the 10th day of November 1994 in English and French, with both texts deemed to be original, is hereby ratified.

Article 2

The text of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in its English original and translation into the Croatian language reads as follows:

FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES

The member States of the Council of Europe and the other States, signatories to the present framework Convention,

Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve greater unity between its members for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage;

Considering that one of the methods by which that aim is to be pursued is the maintenance and further realisation of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

Wishing to follow-up the Declaration of the Heads of State and Government of the member States of the Council of Europe adopted in Vienna on 9 October 1993;

Being resolved to protect within their respective territories the existence of national minorities;

Considering that the upheavals of European history have shown that the protection of national minorities is essential to stability, democratic security and peace in this continent;

Considering that a pluralist and genuinely democratic society should not only respect the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of each person belonging to a national minority, but also create appropriate conditions enabling them to express, preserve and develop this identity;

Considering that the creation of a climate of tolerance and dialogue is necessary to enable cultural diversity to be a source and a factor, not of division, but of enrichment for each society; Considering that the realisation of a tolerant and prosperous Europe does not depend solely on co-operation between States but also requires transfrontier co-operation between local and regional authorities without prejudice to the constitution and territorial integrity of each State;

Having regard to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and the Protocols thereto;

Having regard to the commitments concerning the protection of national minorities in United Nations conventions and declarations and in the documents of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, particularly the Copenhagen Document of 29 June 1990;

Being resolved to define the principles to be respected and the obligations which flow from them, in order to ensure, in the member States and such other States as may become Parties to the present instrument, the effective protection of national minorities and of the rights and

freedoms of persons belonging to those minorities, within the rule of law, respecting the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of states;

Being determined to implement the principles set out in the framework Convention through national legislation and appropriate governmental policies,

Have agreed as follows:

SECTION I

Article 1

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

Article 2

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

Article 3

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

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

SECTION II

Article 4

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

2 The Parties undertake to adopt, where necessary, adequate measures in order to promote, in all areas of economic, social, political and cultural life, full and effective equality between

persons belonging to a national minority and those belonging to the majority. In this respect, they shall take due account of the specific conditions of the persons belonging to national minorities.

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

Article 5

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

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

Article 6

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

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

Article 7

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

Article 8

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

Article 9

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

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

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

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

Article 10

1 The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to use freely and without interference his or her minority language, in private and in public, orally and in writing.

2 In areas inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities traditionally or in substantial numbers, if those persons so request and where such a request corresponds to a real need, the Parties shall endeavour to ensure, as far as possible, the conditions which would make it possible to use the minority language in relations between those persons and the administrative authorities.

3 The Parties undertake to guarantee the right of every person belonging to a national minority to be informed promptly, in a language which he or she understands, of the reasons for his or her arrest, and of the nature and cause of any accusation against him or her, and to defend himself or herself in this language, if necessary with the free assistance of an interpreter.

Article 11

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

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

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

Article 12

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

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

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

Article 13

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

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

Article 14

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

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

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

Article 15

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

Article 16

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

Article 17

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

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

Article 18

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

2 Where relevant, the Parties shall take measures to encourage transfrontier co-operation.

Article 19

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

SECTION III

Article 20

In the exercise of the rights and freedoms flowing from the principles enshrined in the present framework Convention, any person belonging to a national minority shall respect the national legislation and the rights of others, in particular those of persons belonging to the majority or to other national minorities.

Article 21

Nothing in the present framework Convention shall be interpreted as implying any right to engage in any activity or perform any act contrary to the fundamental principles of international law and in particular of the sovereign equality, territorial integrity and political independence of States.

Article 22

Nothing in the present framework Convention shall be construed as limiting or derogating from any of human rights and fundamental freedoms which may be ensured under the laws of any Contracting Party or under any other agreement to which it is a Party.

Article 23

The rights and freedoms flowing from the principles enshrined in the present framework Convention, in so far as they are the subject of a corresponding provision in the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms or in the Protocols thereto, shall be understood so as to conform to the latter provisions.

SECTION IV

Article 24

1 The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe shall monitor the implementation of this framework Convention by the Contracting Parties.

2 The Parties which are not members of the Council of Europe shall participate in the implementation mechanism, according to modalities to be determined.

Article 25

1 Within a period of one year following the entry into force of this framework Convention in respect of a Contracting Party, the latter shall transmit to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe full information on the legislative and other measures taken to give effect to the principles set out in this framework Convention.

2 Thereafter, each Party shall transmit to the Secretary, General on a periodical basis and whenever the Committee of Ministers so requests any further information of relevance to the implementation of this framework Convention.

3 The Secretary General shall forward to the Committee of Ministers the information transmitted under the terms of this Article.

Article 26

1 In evaluating the adequacy of the measures taken by the Parties to give effect to the principles set out in this framework Convention the Committee of Ministers shall be assisted by an advisory committee, the members of which shall have recognised expertise in the field of the protection of national minorities.

2 The composition of this advisory committee and its procedure shall be determined by the Committee of Ministers within a period of one year following the entry into force of this framework Convention.

SECTION V

Article 27

This framework Convention shall be open for signature by the member States of the Council of Europe. Up until the date when the Convention enters into force, it shall also be open for signature by any other State so invited by the Committee of Ministers. It is subject to ratification, acceptance or approval. Instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval shall be deposited with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

Article 28

1 This framework Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of three months after the date on which twelve member States of the Council of Europe have expressed their consent to be bound by the Convention in accordance with the provisions of Article 27.

2 In respect of any member State which subsequently expresses its consent to be bound by it, the framework Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the

expiration of a period of three months after the date of the deposit of the instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval.

Article 29

1 After the entry into force of this framework Convention and after consulting the Contracting States, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe may invite to accede to the Convention, by a decision taken by the majority provided for in Article 20d of the Statute of the Council of Europe, any non-member State of the Council of Europe which, invited to sign in accordance with the provisions of Article 27, has not yet done so, and any other non-member State.

2 In respect of any acceding State, the framework Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of three months after the date of the deposit of the instrument of accession with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

Article 30

1 Any State may, at the time of signature or when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, specify the territory or territories for whose international relations it is responsible to which this framework Convention shall apply.

2 Any State may at any later date, by a declaration addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, extend the application of this framework Convention to any other territory specified in the declaration. In respect of such territory the framework Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of three months after the date of receipt of such declaration by the Secretary General.

3 Any declaration made under the two preceding paragraphs may, in respect of any territory specified in such declaration, be withdrawn by a notification addressed to the Secretary General. The withdrawal shall become effective on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of three months after the date of receipt of such notification by the Secretary General.

Article 31

1 Any Party may at any time denounce this framework Convention by means of a notification addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

2 Such denunciation shall become effective on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of six months after the date of receipt of the notification by the Secretary General.

Article 32

The Secretary General of the Council of Europe shall notify the member States of the Council, other signatory States and any State which has acceded to this framework Convention, of:

- a) any signature;
- b) the deposit of any instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession;
- c) any date of entry into force of this framework Convention in accordance with Articles 28, 29 and 30;
- d) any other act, notification or communication relating to this framework Convention.

In witness whereof the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto, have signed this framework Convention.

Done at ..., this... day of ..., in English and French, both texts being equally authentic, in a single copy which shall be deposited in the archives of the Council of Europe. The Secretary General of the Council of Europe shall transmit certified copies to each member State of the Council of Europe and to any State invited to sign or accede to this framework Convention.

OKVIRNA KONVENCIJA ZA ZAŠTITU NACIONALNIH MANJINA

Države članice Vijeća Europe i druge države potpisnice ove Okvirne konvencije,

Smatrajući da je cilj Vijeća Europe postići veće jedinstvo njegovih članova u svrhu osiguranja i ostvarivanja ideala i načela njihove zajedničke baštine,

Smatrajući da je jedna od metoda ostvarivanja tog cilja održavanje i dalje ostvarivanje ljudskih prava i temeljnih sloboda,

U želji da slijede Deklaraciju šefova država i vlada država članica Vijeća Europe usvojenu u Beču 9. listopada 1993,

Odlučne u nakani da na svojim područjima zaštite postojanje nacionalnih manjina.

Smatrajući da je burna povijest Europe pokazala kako je zaštita nacionalnih manjina bitna za stabilnost, demokratsku sigurnost i mir na ovom kontinentu,

Smatrajući da pluralističko i istinski demokratsko društvo treba ne samo poštivati etničku, kulturnu, jezičnu i vjersku samobitnost svakog pripadnika nacionalne manjine, već im također stvoriti odgovarajuće uvjete za izražavanje, očuvanje i razvijanje te samobitnosti,

Smatrajući da je stvaranje ozračja snošljivosti i dijaloga nužno kako bi kulturna raznolikost bila izvorom i čimbenikom ne podjela, već obogaćivanja svakog društva,

Smatrajući da stvaranje tolerantne i bogate Europe ne ovisi samo o suradnji među državama već iziskuje i međugraničnu suradnju lokalnih i regionalnih vlasti, a da se time ne dovodi u pitanje ustav i teritorijalna cjelovitost svake države,

S obzirom na Konvenciju o zaštiti ljudskih prava i temeljnih sloboda i na pripadajuće Protokole,

S obzirom na obveze glede zaštite nacionalnih manjina po konvencijama i deklaracijama Ujedinjenih naroda i po dokumentima Konferencije o sigurnosti i suradnji u Europi, posebice Kopenhaškom dokumentu od 29. lipnja 1990.

Odlučne u nakani da odrede načela koja valja poštivati i obveze što proizlaze iz njih s ciljem osiguranja, kako u državama članicama tako i u drugim državama koje usvoje ovaj instrument, učinkovite zaštite nacionalnih manjina, te prava i sloboda pripadnika tih manjina, u okviru zakona i uz poštivanje teritorijalne cjelovitosti i nacionalnog suvereniteta država,

Odlučne u nakani da primijene načela utvrđena u ovoj Okvirnoj konvenciji putem nacionalnog zakonodavstva i odgovarajuće vladine politike,

Sporazumjele su se kako slijedi:

ODJELJAK I.

Članak 1.

Zaštita nacionalnih manjina, te prava i sloboda pripadnika manjina čini sastavni dio međunarodne zaštite ljudskih prava i kao takva spada u područje međunarodne suradnje.

Članak 2.

Odredbe ove Okvime konvencije primjenjuju se u dobroj vjeri, u duhu razumijevanja i snošljivosti, te u skladu s načelima dobrosusjedstva, prijateljskih odnosa i suradnje među državama.

Članak 3.

1. Svaki pripadnik nacionalne manjine ima pravo slobodno izabrati da li da bude ili ne bude tretiran kao takav, te nikakve štete ne smiju proisteći iz takva izbora ili iz korištenja prava vezanih za takav izbor.

2. Pripadnici nacionalnih manjina mogu koristiti prava i uživati u slobodama što proizlaze iz načela sadržanih u ovoj Okvirnoj konvenciji, i to kako pojedinačno tako i u zajednici s drugima.

ODJELJAK II.

Članak 4.

1. Stranke se obvezuju jamčiti pripadnicima nacionalnih manjina pravo jednakosti pred zakonom i jednake pravne zaštite. U svezi s tim zabranjuje se bilo kakva diskriminacija temeljena na pripadnosti nacionalnoj manjini.

2. Stranke se obvezuju da će po potrebi usvojiti odgovarajuće mjere s ciljem promicanja pune i učinkovite jednakosti između pripadnika nacionalne manjine i pripadnika većinskog pučanstva u svim područjima gospodarskog, društvenog, političkog i kulturnog života. U svezi s tim stranke će na odgovarajući način uzeti u obzir specifične uvjete pripadnika nacionalnih manjina.

3. Mjere usvojene u skladu sa stavkom 2. ne smatraju se činom diskriminacije.

Članak 5.

1. Stranke se obvezuju unaprijediti uvjete potrebne za pripadnike nacionalnih manjina radi održavanja i razvijanja njihove kulture, te očuvanja bitnih sastavnica njihove samobitnosti odnosno njihove vjere, jezika, tradicije i kulture baštine.

2. Ne dirajući u mjere poduzete u vodenju opće integracijske politike, stranke će se suzdržati od politike ili prakse asimilacije pripadnika nacionalnih manjina protiv njihove volje, te će takve osobe zaštititi od svake akcije kojoj je cilj takva asimilacija.

Članak 6.

1. Stranke će poticati duh snošljivosti i međukulturnog dijaloga i poduzeti učinkovite mjere na promicanju uzajamnog poštovanja razumijevanja i suradnje među svim ljudima koji žive na njihovu području, bez obzira na etničku, kulturnu, jezičnu ili vjersku pripadnost tih ljudi, posebice na području obrazovanja, kulture i medija.

2. Stranke se obvezuju poduzeti odgovarajuće mjere zaštite osoba koje bi mogle biti izložene prijetnjama ili diskriminaciji, neprijateljstvu ili nasilju radi njihove etničke, kulturne, jezične ili vjerske pripadnosti.

Članak 7.

Stranke su dužne osigurati poštovanje prava svakog pripadnika nacionalne manjine na slobodu mirnog okupljanja, slobodu udruživanja, slobodu izražavanja, te slobodu misli, savjesti i vjere.

Članak 8.

Stranke se obvezuju priznati svakom pripadniku nacionalne manjine prava na očitovanje svoje vjere ili uvjerenja, te na osnivanje vjerskih ustanova, organizacija i udruga.

Članak 9.

1. Stranke se obvezuju priznati da pravo na slobodu izražavanja svakog pripadnika nacionalne manjine uključuje slobodu na vlastita mišljenja, te na primanje i širenje informacija i ideja na manjinskom jeziku bez miješanja javnih vlasti i neovisno o granicama. Strane su dužne osigurati, u okviru svojih pravnih sustava, da pripadnici nacionalne manjine ne budu diskriminirani glede pristupa medijima.

2. Stavak 1 ne spriječava stranke da traže dozvolu, bez diskriminacije i na temelju objektivnih kriterija, za radijske postaje i televizijske postaje ili za kinematografska poduzeća.

3. Stranke neće ometati pripadnike racionalnih manjina u osnivanju i uporabi tiskovnih medija. U zakonskim će okvirima radio-televizijskog emitiranja što više osigurati, uzimajući u obzir odredbe stavka 1., da pripadnicima nacionalnih manjina bude pružena mogućnost osnivanja i korištenja vlastitih medija.

4. U okviru svojih pravnih sustava stranke će usvojiti odgovarajuće mjere s ciljem olakšanja pristupa medijima pripadnika nacionalnih manjina, te s ciljem promicanja snošljivosti i omogućavanja kulturnog pluralizma.

Članak 10.

1. Stranke se obvezuju priznati pravo da svaki pripadnik nacionalne manjine ima pravo slobodno i bez miješanja koristiti svoj manjinski jezik, privatno i javno, u govoru i u pismu.

2. Na područjima nastanjenima osobama koje tradicionalno ili u znatnijem broju pripadaju nacionalnim manjinama, ukoliko te osobe to zatraže te ondje gdje takav zahtjev odgovara stvarnoj potrebi, stranke će uzastojati, koliko je to moguće, osigurati uvjete koji će omogućiti korištenje manjinskog jezika u ophodanju tih osoba s tijelima vlasti.

3. Stranke se obvezuju svakoj osobi koja pripada nacionalnoj manjini jamčiti pravo na to da smjesta bude informirana, na jeziku kojeg razumije, o razlozima svojeg uhićenja te o naravi i povodu optužbe protiv nje, kao i to da se brani na tom jeziku, u slučaju potrebe i uz slobodnu pomoć prevoditelja.

Članak 11.

1. Stranke se obvezuju priznati da svaka osoba koja pripada nacionalnoj manjini ima pravo koristiti svoje prezime i ime na manjinskom jeziku te da joj ono bude službeno priznato, u skladu s modalitetima koje predviđa njihov pravni sustav.

2. Stranke se obvezuju priznati da svaka osoba koja pripada nacionalnoj manjini ima pravo na svojem manjinskom jeziku isticati oznake, natpise i druge informacije privatne naravi a javno uočljive.

3. Na područjima tradicionalno nastanjenima znatnijim brojem osoba koje pripadaju nacionalnoj manjini, stranke će u okviru svojih pravnih sustava, uključujući - gdje je to prikladno - sporazume s drugim državama te uzimajući u obzir njihove specifične uvjete, uzastojati istaknuti tradicionalne lokalne nazive, nazive ulica i druge topografske oznake namijenjene javnosti također i na manjinskom jeziku kad za takve oznake postoji dostatno zanimanje.

Članak 12.

1. Gdje je to prikladno, stranke poduzimaju mjere na području obrazovanja i istraživanja radi promicanja spoznaje o kulturi, povijesti, jezika i vjere njihovih nacionalnih manjina i većine.
2. U tom kontekstu stranke će, između ostalog, pružiti odgovarajuće mogućnosti za obuku nastavnika i pristup udžbenicima, te će olakšati kontakte između učenika i nastavnika različitih zajednica.
3. Stranke se obvezuju promicati jednaku dostupnost obrazovanja osobama koje pripadaju nacionalnim manjinama na svim razinama.

Članak 13.

1. Unutar svojih obrazovnih sustava stranke priznaju da osobe koje pripadaju nacionalnoj manjini imaju pravo ustanovljavati i upravljati vlastitim privatnim ustanovama za obrazovanje i obuku.
2. Korištenje ovoga prava ne uključuje nikakvu financijsku obvezu za stranke.

Članak 14.

1. Stranke se obvezuju priznati da svaka osoba koja pripada nacionalnoj manjini ima pravo učiti na svom manjinskom jeziku.
2. Na područjima tradicionalno ili u znatnijem broju nastanjenom osobama koje pripadaju nacionalnim manjinama, ako za to postoji dostatno zanimanje, stranke će uznastojati osigurati, koliko je to moguće te u okvirima svojih obrazovnih sustava, da osobe koje pripadaju tim manjinama imaju odgovarajuće mogućnosti da uče manjinski jezik ili da ih se područava na manjinskom jeziku.
3. Stavak 2. ovoga članka primjenjuje se tako ne dirajući u učenje službenog jezika ili nastave na tom jeziku.

Članak 15.

Stranke će stvoriti uvjete nužne za učinkovito sudjelovanje osoba koje pripadaju nacionalnim manjinama u kultumom, društvenom i gospodarskom životu i javnim poslovima, posebice u onima koji se tiču njih samih.

Članak 16.

Stranke se uzdržavaju od mjera koje mijenjaju omjere među pučanstvom na područjima nastanjenima osobama koje pripadaju nacionalnim manjinama, a koje su usmjerene na ograničenja prava i sloboda koje proizlaze iz načela sadržanih u aktualnoj Okvirnoj konvenciji.

Članak 17.

1. Stranke se obvezuju da se neće miješati u prava osoba koje pripadaju nacionalnim manjinama da uspostavljaju i održavaju slobodne i miroljubive kontakte preko granica s osobama koje legalno borave u drugim državama, osobito s onima s kojima dijele etnički, kultumi, jezični ili vjerski identitet ili pak zajedničko kultumo nasljeđe.

2. Stranke se obvezuju da se neće miješati u pravo osoba koje pripadaju nacionalnim manjinama da sudjeluju u djelatnostima nevladinih organizacija, kako na državnoj tako i na međunarodnoj razini.

Članak 18.

1. Stranke će nastojati, gdje je to potrebno, zaključiti bilateralne i multilateralne sporazume s drugim državama, osobito sa susjednim državama, radi osiguranja zaštite osoba koje pripadaju dotičnim nacionalnim manjinama.

2. Tamo gdje je to relevantno, stranke poduzimaju mjere za poticanje prekogranične suradnje.

Članak 19.

Stranke se obvezuju da će poštovati i primjenjivati načela sadržana u aktualnoj Okvirnoj konvenciji, uz samo ona ograničenja, restrikcije i derogacije - tamo gdje je to nužno - koja su predviđena međunarodnopravnim instrumentima, osobito Konvenciji za zaštitu ljudskih prava i temeljnih sloboda, u onoj mjeri u kojoj se oni odnose na prava i slobode koji proizlaze iz spomenutih načela.

ODJELJAK III.

Članak 20.

U korištenju prava i sloboda koja proizlaze iz načela sadržanih u aktualnoj Okvirnoj konvenciji svaka osoba koja pripada nacionalnoj manjini poštovat će zakonodavstvo dotične države i prava drugih, posebice prava osoba koje pripadaju većini ili drugim nacionalnim manjinama.

Članak 21.

Ništa u ovoj Okvirnoj konvenciji neće se tumačiti kao da implicira bilo kakvo pravo na obavljanje bilo kakve djelatnosti ili izvršavanje čina suprotnih temeljnim načelima međunarodnog prava te posebice suverene jednakosti, teritorijalne cjelovitosti i političke nezavisnosti država.

Članak 22.

Ništa se u ovoj Okvirnoj konvenciji ne smije tumačiti kao ograničenje ijednog od ljudskih prava i temeljnih sloboda koja mogu biti osigurana po zakonima koje od ugovornih stranaka ili po bilo kojemu drugom sporazumu čija je stranka dotična ugovorna stranka.

Članak 23.

Za prava i slobode koji proizlaze iz načela sadržanih u ovoj Okvirnoj konvenciji, u onoj mjeri u kojoj su oni predmet odgovarajuće odredbe Konvencije za zaštitu ljudskih prava i temeljnih sloboda ili pak Protokola uz nju, smatra se da su u skladu s potonjim odredbama.

ODJELJAK IV.

Članak 24.

1. Odbor ministara Vijeća Europe pratit će provedbu ove Okvime konvencije od strane ugovornih stranaka.
2. Stranke, koje nisu članice Vijeća Europe, sudjelovat će u mehanizmima provedbe, prema modalitetima koje treba ustvrditi.

Članak 25.

1. U roku od godine dana od stupanja na snagu ove Okvirne konvencije za pojedinu ugovornu stranku, dotična će Glavnom tajniku Vijeća Europe proslijediti potpune informacije o zakonodavnim i drugim mjerama, koje su poduzete za ostvarenje načela izloženih u ovoj Okvimoj konvenciji.
2. Nakon toga, svaka će stranka Glavnom tajniku, u pravilnim razmacima i kad god to zatraži Odbor ministara, prosljeđivati sve daljnje informacije koje su značajne, za provedbu ove Okvirne konvencije.
3. Glavni tajnik proslijedit će Odboru ministara informacije koje su proslijeđene pod uvjetima iz ovog članka.

Članak 26.

1. U ocjenjivanju mjera koje su stranke poduzele za ostvarenje načela izloženih u ovoj Okvirnoj konvenciji, Odboru ministara pomagat će savjetodavni odbor, čiji članovi moraju imati priznato stručno znanje na području zaštite nacionalnih manjina.
2. Sastav tog savjetodavnog odbora i njegove postupke odredit će Odbor ministara u roku od godine dana od stupanja na snagu ove Okvirne konvencije.

ODJELJAK V.

Članak 27.

Ova će Okvirna konvencija biti otvorena za potpisivanje od strane država članica Vijeća Europe. Do datuma stupanja na snagu Konvencije, bit će otvorena i za potpisivanje od strane bilo koje države koju pozove Odbor ministara. Podložna je ratifikaciji, prihvatu ili odobrenju. Isprave o ratifikaciji, prihvatu ili odobrenju bit će položene kod Glavnog tajnika Vijeća Europe.

Članak 28.

1. Ova Okvirna konvencija stupa na snagu prvog dana mjeseca koji slijedi nakon isteka perioda od tri mjeseca nakon datuma kojeg dvanaest članica Vijeća Europe izraze pristanak da se obvežu na Konvenciju u skladu s odredbama članka 27.
2. U pogledu bilo koje zemlje članice koja naknadno izrazi pristanak da se na nju obveže, Okvirna konvencija stupa na snagu prvog dana mjeseca koji slijedi nakon isteka razdoblja od tri mjeseca nakon polaganja isprave o ratifikaciji, prihvatu ili odobrenju.

Članak 29.

1. Nakon stupanja na snagu ove Okvirne konvencije i nakon konzultacija s državama ugovornicima, Odbor ministara Vijeća Europe, može, odlukom većine koju predviđa članak 20.d. Statuta Vijeća Europe, pozvati da pristupi Konvenciji svaku državu nečlanicu Vijeća Europe, koja je pozvana da je potpiše u skladu s odredbama članka 27. ali to još nije učinila, kao i bilo koju drugu državu nečlanicu.
2. Za svaku državu koja pristupa Konvenciji, Okvirna konvencija stupit će na snagu prvog dana mjeseca koji slijedi nakon isteka razdoblja od tri mjeseca od polaganja isprave o pristupu kod Glavnog tajnika Vijeća Europe.

Članak 30.

1. Svaka država može, u vrijeme potpisivanja ili polaganja svoje isprave o ratifikaciji, prihvatu, odobrenju ili pristupu, navesti područje ili područja za čije je međunarodne odnose odgovorna, na koje će se primjenjivati ova Okvirna konvencija.
2. Svaka država može kasnije, izjavom Glavnom tajniku Vijeća Europe, proširiti primjenu ove Okvirne konvencije na bilo koje drugo područje navedeno u izjavi. U pogledu tog područja, Okvirna konvencija stupa na snagu prvog dana mjeseca koji slijedi nakon isteka razdoblja od tri mjeseca od dana kada je Glavni tajnik primio takvu izjavu.
3. Svaka izjava dana prema dvama prethodnim stavcima može se, u pogledu bilo kojeg područja navedenog u takvoj izjavi, povući notifikacijom upućenom Glavnom tajniku. Povlačenje izjave proizvodi učinke od prvog dana mjeseca koji slijedi nakon isteka razdoblja od tri mjeseca od dana kada je Glavni tajnik primio takvu notifikaciju.

Članak 31.

1. Svaka stranka može u bilo koje vrijeme otkazati ovu Okvirnu konvenciju, i to putem notifikacije upućene Glavnom tajniku Vijeća Europe.
2. Takav otkaz proizvodi učinke od prvog dana mjeseca koji slijedi nakon isteka razdoblja od šest mjeseci od dana kada je Glavni tajnik primio takvu notifikaciju.

Članak 32.

Glavni tajnik Vijeća Europe obavijestit će države članice Vijeća, druge države potpisnice i bilo koju državu koja je pristupila ovoj Okvirnoj konvenciji, o:

- a) svakom potpisu,
- b) polaganju svake isprave o ratifikaciji, prihvatu, odobrenju ili pristupu,
- c) svakom danu stupanja na snagu ove Okvirne konvencije u skladu s člancima 28., 29. i 30,
- d) svakom drugom činu, notifikaciji ili priopćenju u vezi s Okvirnom konvencijom.

U potvrdu gore navedenog, dolje potpisani, propisno ovlašteni za to, potpisali su ovu Okvirnu konvenciju.

Sastavljeno u Strasbourgu, dana 1. veljače 1995. na engleskom i francuskom, pri čemu su obje verzije jednako vjerodostojne, u samo jednom primjerku koji će se položiti u arhiv

Vijeća Europe. Glavni tajnik Vijeća Europe proslijedit će ovjerene kopije svakoj državi članici Vijeća Europe i svakoj državi koja je pozvana da potpiše ovu Okvirnu konvenciju ili da joj pristupi.

Article 3

The Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities shall be implemented by the relevant ministries and other state administration bodies of the Republic of Croatia whose remit includes the exercise of rights envisaged by the Convention.

Article 4

This Act shall enter into force on the eight day following its publication in *Narodne novine*, the official journal of the Republic of Croatia.

Class: 016-O1/97-02/02

Zagreb, 19 September 1997

CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

President of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament

Vlatko Pavletić, academician (*signed*)