

REPORT ON THE PROTECTION OF THE FRIULIAN-SPEAKING MINORITY

(Council of Europe. Fifth Italian Report on the Implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities)

1. SPEAKERS

ARLeF – Agenzia regionale per la lingua friulana (Regional Friulian Language Agency), with the collaboration of Udine University and coordinated by its chief scientist Claudio Melchior, presented in 2015 the full data gathered by the sociolinguistic survey on the Friulian language carried out in 2014.

Among the most interesting results are the data concerning the distribution and understanding of the Friulian language in the area involved in the research:

at present, 600,000 people resident in the former provinces of Gorizia, Pordenone and Udine speak Friulian. Of these, 420,000 speak it regularly, 180,000 occasionally. This amounts to over 60% of the population of the three former provinces. If the inhabitants of the former province of Trieste are added, the total number of Friulian-speakers comes to almost half of all the inhabitants of the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia.

Almost the entire population actually understands Friulian, even though they might not speak it: over 83% of the population of the former provinces of Gorizia and Pordenone understand Friulian. This percentage rises to 96% in the former province of Udine. This means that overall over 90% of the inhabitants of the three provinces in the survey claim to at least understand the Friulian language.

It is worth mentioning that these figures do not take into account Friulian-speakers living in the municipalities of the eastern part of the Veneto Region (Mandamento di Portogruaro), in the rest of Italy and people from the region who now live abroad.

2. THE FRIULIAN-SPEAKING MINORITY IN THE REGION

Listed below are the territorially-defined municipalities in Friuli created to date (in accordance with art. 3 of Law 482/99, art. 5 of Regional Law 15/96 and art. 3 of Regional Law

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29/2007), which therefore officially constitute the area where the Friulian-speaking minority is present:

Former Province of Gorizia

Capriva del Friuli, Cormons, Dolegna del Collio, Farra d'Isonzo, Gorizia, Gradisca d'Isonzo, Mariano del Friuli, Medea, Monfalcone, Moraro, Mossa, Romans d'Isonzo, Sagrado, San Lorenzo Isontino, Villesse.

Former Province of Pordenone

Andreis, Arba, Aviano, Barcis, Budoia, Casarsa della Delizia, Castelnovo del Friuli, Cavasso Nuovo, Claut, Clauzetto, Cordenons, Cordovado, Fanna, Fontanafredda, Frisanco, Maniago, Meduno, Montereale Valcellina, Morsano al Tagliamento, Pinzano al Tagliamento, Polcenigo, Pordenone, San Giorgio della Richinvelda, San Martino al Tagliamento, San Quirino, San Vito al Tagliamento, Sequals, Sesto al Reghena, Spilimbergo, Tramonti di Sopra, Tramonti di Sotto, Travesio, Valvasone Arzene, Vito d'Asio, Vivaro, Zoppola.

Former Province of Udine

Aiello del Friuli, Amaro, Ampezzo, Aquileia, Arta Terme, Artegna, Attimis, Bagnaria Arsa, Basiliano, Bertiole, Bicinicco, Bordano, Buja, Buttrio, Camino al Tagliamento, Campofornido, Campolongo Tapogliano, Carlino, Cassacco, Castions di Strada, Cavazzo Carnico, Cercivento, Cervignano del Friuli, Chiopris-Viscone, Chiusaforte, Cividale del Friuli, Codroipo, Colloredo di Monte Albano, Comeglians, Corno di Rosazzo, Coseano, Dignano, Dogna, Enemonzo, Faedis, Fagagna, Fiumicello Villa Vicentina, Flaibano, Forgaria nel Friuli, Forni Avoltri, Forni di Sopra, Forni di Sotto, Gemona del Friuli, Gonars, Latisana, Lauco, Lestizza, Lignano Sabbiadoro, Magnano in Riviera, Majano, Malborghetto-Valbruna, Manzano, Martignacco, Mereto di Tomba, Moggio Udinese, Moimacco, Montenars, Mortegliano, Moruzzo, Muzzana del Turgnano, Nimis, Osoppo, Ovaro, Pagnacco, Palazzolo dello Stella, Palmanova, Paluzza, Pasian di Prato, Paularo, Pavia di Udine, Pocenia, Pontebba, Porpetto, Povoletto, Pozzuolo del Friuli, Pradamano, Prato Carnico, Precenicco, Premariacco, Preone, Prepotto, Ragogna, Ravascletto, Raveo, Reana del Rojale, Remanzacco, Resiutta, Rigolato, Rive d'Arcano,

Rivignano Teor, Ronchis, Ruda, San Daniele del Friuli, San Giorgio di Nogaro, San Giovanni al Natisone, Santa Maria la Longa, San Vito al Torre, San Vito di Fagagna, Sauris, Sedegliano, Socchieve, Sutrio, Talmassons, Tarcento, Tarvisio, Tavagnacco, Terzo di Aquileia, Tolmezzo, Torreano, Torviscosa, Trasaghis, Treppo Grande, Treppo Ligosullo, Tricesimo, Trivignano Udinese, Udine, Varmo, Venzone, Verzegnis, Villa Santina, Visco, Zuglio.

This amounts to a total of 173 municipalities (out of 215 in the entire Region).

For the sake of thoroughness, 3 further territorially-defined municipalities in the eastern part of the province of Venice (Cinto Caomaggiore, Teglio Veneto, San Michele al Tagliamento) should be added, even though the real diffusion in this province is much more extensive.

3. PERSONAL DETAILS

The Friulian-speaking population tends to be aged 40 and over, with these people having a good command of the spoken language, but a poor knowledge of the written language (on account of the lack of schooling in the language).

As far as intergenerational relations between Friulian-speakers is concerned, as a general rule grandparents are more likely to use the language when speaking to their grandchildren, although the use of the language between parents has picked up in recent years.

It is not possible to provide precise data regarding the number of Friulian-speakers among children and young people because a thorough survey has yet to be carried out, especially concerning minors. Nevertheless, on the basis of sociolinguistic research performed in recent years, a rough picture does emerge. In 2003 Udine University's CIRF – Centro interdipartimentale di ricerca sulla cultura e la lingua del Friuli (Interdepartmental Centre for Research into the Culture and Language of Friuli) – conducted a sociolinguistic study on a sample of 388 teenagers living in Friuli aged between 15 and 18. On the basis of the data recorded and processed, it was found that 61.3% spoke Friulian regularly or occasionally, while fully 94.6% had a passive understanding of the language (Picco L., 2006 *La condizione sociolinguistica del friulano*, in Cisilino W., *Friulano lingua viva*, Forum 2006, pp.143-189).

Further research has been carried out on smaller numbers of people, such as the survey conducted by the municipality of Cividale del Friuli during the 2011/12 school year, in which all the pupils then attending secondary schools within the municipal boundaries were interviewed on their speaking habits. A total of 1893 questionnaires were distributed to students aged between 11 and 19. Almost a quarter of these, 21.8%, said they spoke Friulian regularly; a further third, 33.6%, declared they spoke it occasionally. This means that a total of 55.4% of the sample could speak the language to some degree. In addition, fully 86.9% of those interviewed claimed to have at least a passive understanding of Friulian. It will be noted that these results match those of the survey carried out in 2003 (De Agostini P., ed., 2012, *Furlan, zovins e lenghis: pensadis, feveladis, studiadis*).

According to the sociolinguistic research published by CIRF in 2001, in the past the number of Friulian-speakers was found to decline at the rate of 1% per year. But by 2014 Friulian was a living language playing a full role in what was by then a multi- and pluri-lingual context that was experiencing a “cultural rebound” involving profound changes. The 600,000 people living in the former provinces of Gorizia, Pordenone and Udine – over 60% of the population of the three provinces – speak Friulian: 420,000 regularly, 180,000 occasionally. Taking into consideration Friulian-speakers in the former province of Trieste, the total amounts to almost half the entire population of the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia. Over 83% of the population of the provinces of Pordenone and Gorizia understand Friulian. This proportion rises to 96% in the province of Udine. Overall, in excess of 90% of the inhabitants in the three provinces considered claims to at least understand the Friulian language. The decline in the number of speakers has dropped by a little to 0.6% per year (a figure which is nonetheless a cause for concern), but the new and very encouraging finding is that the under-30s are more likely to speak Friulian than the over-30s and over-40s. A majority of the population in the three provinces are in favour of active measures to protect the Friulian language. Over two thirds of those interviewed are in favour of Friulian being used in schools. Language transmission within families is not very high, even so 55.9% of Friulian-speakers employ Friulian, or at least Friulian too, when speaking to their children. Writing in Friulian continues to encounter problems (another cause for concern), but there does not seem to be any radical, clear-cut opposition, as there was in the past, such as would

undermine the language's linguistic and cultural status. The results of the survey make one thing quite clear: while never ceasing to be the "language of the heart", the Friulian language is also increasingly a "language of communication"; it is used in informal contexts (in the family, in daily life, between schoolmates and colleagues at work, etc.), while at the same time becoming more and more common in more formal and/or public occasions.

4. LEGISLATION

Official recognition of the Friulian-speaking minority is based principally on three laws: Regional Law no 15, dated 22 March 1996 (Legislation concerning the protection and promotion of the Friulian language and culture and the introduction of a service in support of regional and minority languages), Law no 482, dated 15 December 1999 (Legislation concerning the protection of historical minority language-speakers), and the more recent Regional Law no 29, dated 18 December 2007 (Legislation concerning the protection, enhancement and promotion of the Friulian language).

Regional Law 15/96 was the first legislation officially to recognize Friulian as a language in its own right and to establish that as such it could be used during meetings held by the various public bodies, when naming places and in relations with the citizenry in general. The law also installed a special agency designed to oversee language policy – Osservatori pe lenghe e pe culture furlanis (Friulian language and culture observatory), replaced by an independent agency in 2005: Agenzie regjonâl pe lenghe furlane (ARLeF) – and outlined the initial initiatives to be introduced in public education and radio and television broadcasting.

Law 482/99 completed and extended the scope of the protection previously presented by the regional legislation. The national law includes more clearly defined legislation regarding the teaching of minority languages in schools and specifically acknowledges the right to use these languages in all public administrations serving territorially circumscribed administrative areas. The legislation regarding public radio and television broadcasts is also far-reaching, although not fully implemented as yet.

Eleven years after the enactment of Regional law 15/96 and eight after the enactment of the national law, the Regional government felt the need to "tweak" the language legislation as far as Friulian is concerned, by passing a new regional law in support of the language:

Regional Law 29/2007 (Legislation regarding the protection, enhancement and promotion of the Friulian language). This decision was necessary in order to overcome certain shortcomings of the previous legislation and to meet the demands of the Regional government's new commitments as a result of the reform of Title 5 of the Italian Constitution, as well as the enactment of Decree Law no 223, dated 12 September 2002 (Legislation implementing the special statute of the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia transferring functions concerning the protection of the language and culture of the minority language-speakers historically present in the Region).

The 2° Conferenza regionale di verifica e di proposta sulla attuazione della legge regionale 29/2007 (Second Regional Conference to Monitor and Submit Proposals for the Implementation of Regional Law 29/2007) [proceedings of the conference https://arlef.it/app/uploads/progetti/atti_conferenza-regionale-verifica-l-29-2007_fur_it.pdf].

5. PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

In spite of being the subject of quite a few interventions, the legislation in this field has so far ensured a gradual increase in the use of the Friulian language in the public administration, especially as regards the establishment of language desks and in some cases the translation or design of institutional websites or street signs. There are 173 municipalities included within the zoning area established by Law 482/199; to these should be added supra-municipal institutions, local health authorities and other bodies (consortiums and associations of local corporations, Regional agencies, etc.). These organizations' requests for funds have displayed considerable continuity over the years: the number of projects presented has remained fundamentally stable, but it is too early to speak of a properly structured language policy. The crucial determining factor that needs to be stressed is the marked reduction in funds transferred from the central government to the Regional government in accordance with Law 482/1999, which were to ensure the Friulian language could be used freely in the public administration.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
State funding	€ 1,147,400.00	€ 979,905.00	€ 1,117,212.00	€ 744,536.00	€ 363,934.00
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
State funding	€ 374,397.00	€ 337,509.00	€ 345,799.00	€ 328,203.00	€ 653,406.00

Even where language desks have been operational for years, with positive results, most public administrations have never fully appreciated that language desks were meant to be a purely temporary measure and that staff dealing with the public would be gradually trained to get used to the idea of employing their own language entirely normally in all circumstances permitted by law. It is also worth considering making knowledge of the Friulian language, the language of the area administered, a prerequisite when hiring new staff. It is also important to underline the fact that language policy can be applied at zero cost, for example when public administrators choose to use the Friulian language in public and official occasions. In this regard, there are still too few positive examples.

The situation regarding corporations partly under public ownership is extremely critical and citizens' language rights are often not assured, even where specific instructions are provided by the Piano Generale di Politica Linguistica (PGPL) [General Language Policy Plan]. This applies particularly to companies running infrastructure and services for the general public, such as transport or road maintenance. This has even led to steps backward, as in the case of construction sites passing from the province of Udine to FVG Strade, with the result that whereas before the road signs were automatically provided in two languages, afterwards the signs were exclusively in Italian. It is thus clear that the Regional government and public administrations, which hold most of the shares in these organizations, should provide clear guidelines to ensure that everything is produced in a bi- or multi-lingual form.

Piano Generale di Politica Linguistica (General Language Policy Plan) and Piani Speciali di Politica Linguistica (Special Language Policy Plans)

Bearing in mind the date of Regional Law 29/2007, it is instructive to note that the first Piano Generale di Politica Linguistica (PGPL) was approved by the Regional government on 29 May 2015. This highlights the great difficulties encountered in implementing the law as a whole during the first years when it was in force and makes it clear that it was not possible, especially in view of the precedents, to make up for lost time with a more incisive measure. As regards the use of the language in public, this “induced insight” is confirmed by comparing the true state of affairs and what was intended in the PGPL.

To date, the Regional government has not yet drawn up its own Piano Speciale di Politica Linguistica (PSPL), with all that this entails. It seems that appropriate “Friulian language officials”, whose job in every head office and regional agency is “to ensure its use in all dealings with the general public”, both orally and in writing, are yet to be appointed. Similarly, there is also no sign so far of the introduction of “appropriate clauses” designed to ensure the Friulian language is used in dealings with the public in the “procedures governing dealings with firms holding concessions for the provision of public services in the Region and Regional agencies”. The same applies to the availability of Friulian language versions of the laws passed by the Regional government, from the enactment of the PGPL to the present. The situation is rather better in the field of corporate communication and as regards the publication of the proceedings of the Regional government in the Friulian language, at least relatively speaking: a number of initiatives have been taken, but these are isolated and of limited extent, rather than being part of a “normal” programme. On a positive note, councillors in the Regional government have been allowed since 2006 to speak in Friulian when discussing the affairs of the assembly (but not with regard to the business of minor bodies) thanks to the simultaneous interpreting/translation service provided for those who do not understand Friulian. However, not many Friulian-speaking Regional councillors exercise this right during assembly debates. As regards the Friulian-language sections of “the more important parts” of institutional websites of the Regional government and Regional agencies, the state of affairs is mixed. On the one hand, the efficiency and user-friendliness of the regularly updated www.meteo.fvg.it website has long been appreciated, while the ARLeF website is obviously multilingual and uses Friulian as its primary access language. On the other, most other institutional websites have no Friulian-language sections, with the

occasional exception. One of these is Ente tutela pesca (Fishing Control Agency), which in 2017 collaborated with ARLeF to create an information section in Friulian in its institutional website (http://www.entetutelapesca.it/cms/fur/pescja_in_FVJ/), and another is “Gnovis”, the Friulian section of “Notizie dalla Giunta” (Council News), which was operational for a number of years. However, the number and frequency of articles published continued to diminish over the years and the section has recently disappeared altogether.

The proposals of the PGPL concerning billboards and signs (Regional administration office signs, public information signs, public transport signs, road signs in general) have not been acted upon to date. Following the approval and publication of the PGPL, several preparatory operations were begun for many of the planned measures, but there have been no particularly significant developments to date. Among the PGPL’s proposals concerning the use of the Friulian language in a public context that have so far not been implemented are a number of measures involving local agencies and health authorities. This applies in particular to the fact that, like the Regional government, none of these bodies has developed its own PSPL, apart from the municipality of Tricesimo and Azienda per l’Assistenza Sanitaria n. 3 “Alto Friuli-Collinare – Medio Friuli” (Local Health Centre no 3: Alto Friuli-Collinare – Medio Friuli), as can be seen below. ARLeF has drawn up PSPL models which it has presented to municipalities and other bodies, as well as a number of firms holding concessions for the provision of public services and some of these have responded positively. This key instrument approved and introduced by the municipality of Tricesimo in 2018 and by the municipality of Udine and Azienda per l’Assistenza Sanitaria n. 3 “Alto Friuli-Collinare – Medio Friuli” at the beginning of 2019.

In view of the modest success of the language planning system outlined in Regional Law 29/2007, the Regional government has been developing a new system over the past months that will be better able to ensure the language policies introduced by the Regional administration and local agencies will be more effective.

Local authorities, local health authorities, universities and other public authorities

As in the case of the Regional government and Regional authorities, the fact that appropriate PSPLs have not been drawn up does not in itself mean that projects and

initiatives designed to encourage the use of the Friulian language in a public context have not been introduced. On the contrary, there is no shortage of often high-quality projects, initiatives and actions that have a positive impact on the population and language, and therefore on citizens' rights. There has also been effective collaboration between the individual administrations and ARLeF since at least 2014 and the effect has been to introduce good practices that can be employed on a wider scale. There have been some exemplary schemes in this respect: the pilot bilingual sign project for the playing fields at Remanzacco, the collaboration with FUC (Ferrovie Udine Cividale) to create multilingual signs for the Udine-Cividale railway line and other promotional and communication initiatives, and the collaboration with IAL in Udine to provide multilingual signs for the institute's premises. However, what is still missing, as noted above in the field of the Regional administration, is proper planning and scheduling, along with the strategic perspective that should underpin them and the continuity and effectiveness that would result. From 2003 to 2016 requests for state subsidies to be drawn on state funds provided pursuant to the implementation of Law 482/1999 for the creation of projects designed to boost the use of the Friulian language in the public administration (in various forms, such as language desks, translations, corporate communication, billboards and signs, language tuition for staff, interpreting for governing bodies, staff training), whether individually or in association, were presented by 134 of the 175 municipalities "zoned" for the Friulian language (specifically: 116 of the 125 "zoned" in the province of Udine; 9 of the 37 "zoned" in the province of Pordenone; 9 of the 15 "zoned" in the province of Gorizia). At least twenty or so supra-municipal institutions have done the same, including: the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia and Regional agencies (ARPA and ARLeF); the provinces of Udine, Pordenone and Gorizia; the following local health authorities – Aziende sanitarie 2 Isontina (now 2 Isontina e Bassa Friulana), 3 Alto Friuli (now 3 Alto Friuli, Collinare, Medio Friuli), 4 Medio Friuli (now partly AAS 3 and partly ASUIUD), 5 Bassa Friulana (now 2 Isontina e Bassa Friulana) – Consorzio Universitario del Friuli (Friuli University Consortium); Consorzio per lo Sviluppo del Polo Universitario di Gorizia (Consortium for the Development of the University Campus of Gorizia); Camera di commercio di Udine (Udine Chamber of Commerce); Comunità montane (Mountain Communities): Carnia, Val Canale, Gemonese and Canal del

Ferro, Valli Natisone and Torre, and Collio. Udine University should also be added to the list, especially as regards activities associated with the language desk, corporate communication and staff training. Several institutional signs (starting with the bi- or multi-lingual signs that can be found in many offices of local agencies and health authorities, particularly in the provinces of Udine and Gorizia) and road signs ((in many municipalities, notably in Udine, and throughout the entire road network in the provinces of Udine and Gorizia), as well as bilingual place names signs/billboards (set at the entrance and exit of towns and villages and also often street names and suchlike) have also be introduced over the past few years, often independently of the funds provided by Law 482/1999, but generally thanks to this form of financing. The funds made available by Law 482/1999 during this period have enabled the health authorities responsible for Carnia, Alto Friuli, Canale del Ferro and Val Canale, Medio Friuli, Bassa Friulana and Friuli Orientale (but not Friuli Occidentale, which never presented a request for subsidies and has never introduced any similar project) to develop innovative and effective corporate communication initiatives, such as campaigns to provide information and raise awareness regarding work-related injuries, the campaign against substance abuse and the prevention and treatment of certain diseases. Numerous institutions in the area have taken advantage of this type of funding to open language desks, services staffed by linguistically and professionally qualified personnel and designed to improve the standard of communication and information provided to the citizen in the Friulian language, to promote the use of the language as the “normal” means of expression in the area, in both the public and private sphere, and to foster the creation and spread of cultural material in Friulian.

Language certification in the pipeline, funds diminishing and projects sporadic (with a few exceptions)

These various types of initiatives decreased between 2012 and 2017 owing primarily to the considerable reduction in the scant state funding provided under Law 482/1999 and secondarily to the crisis in public and local authorities, caused in particular by directives on reductions in staff costs and by regulations that severely hampered administrative procedures.

Starting from the 2012 state fiscal year (corresponding to the 2014 Regional fiscal year), this situation led to the lack of financial provisions for all initiatives other than language desks, which themselves had to “make do” with fewer resources and in a more uncertain context, as recorded by the Council of Europe Monitoring Committee when it performed its fourth monitoring of the Republic of Italy’s implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, subsequently underlined in Resolution CM/ResCMN(2017)4, approved by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 5 July 2017. So, while at the end of 2012 around 710,000.00 euros were assigned as support for Friulian language projects (language desks, translations, corporate communication, billboards and signs) presented by 79 agencies and public authorities, to be drawn on the state funds provided for 2011, from the beginning of 2014 the contributions available for the Friulian language dropped to 320,000.00 euros, based on state financing for 2012, and only 31 of the 76 institutions that had applied for various types of initiatives received contributions to be used exclusively on language desks. The sum made available by the ministry for 2013 amounted to 341,000.00 euros and, in view of the requests for contributions for various types of initiatives made by 57 institutions, individually or in association, was only enough to cover the requests for contributions for language desks presented by 35 bodies, including the Regional government. The sum made available by the ministry for 2014 was further reduced to 292,000.00 euros and in view of the requests for contributions for various types of initiatives made by 50 institutions, the figure was only enough to cover the requests for contributions for language desks presented by 36 bodies, individually or in association. Financing for the Friulian language in 2015 amounted to around 312,000.00 euros, to be shared among the language desks of 22 of the 31 institutions that had applied for contributions. A number of measures were taken even in these unfavourable financial circumstances, but for this very reason and especially owing to the lack of proper planning and an overall strategic perspective, they were not followed up with the necessary continuity and thus failed to live up to their full potential. In the field of corporate communication, it is worth mentioning the “Udin par Furlan” integrated project (internet, radio and TV), which the Municipality of Udine developed between 2014 and 2015 but was discontinued when state subsidies were exhausted. A similar situation occurred in

the field of billboards and signs: various institutions introduced measures of this kind over the years, employing funding available through the state law on the protection of minorities, but when it came to introducing other measures in this field using their own funds, they sometimes continued to produce billboards and signs solely in Italian, although monolingual or bilingual versions cost the same. There is a lack of a general awareness that corporate communication and signposting should be present in several languages in a multilingual area in order to fulfil their purpose as well as possible. There are some exceptions. One example is the new Biblioteca civica (public library) in Tavagnacco/Feletto Umberto, which has introduced bilingual signs without recourse to funds under Law 482/1999. Language desks continue to operate as the only kind of initiative that still receives funds, even though the sums diminish and the status of the desks is more uncertain. On the one hand they are certainly staffed by highly competently personnel and in some cases have a considerable impact on the area, but on the other – as already mentioned – they are in a poor condition from the economic and organizational point of view and do not appear to enjoy the standing to which they are entitled and deserve in the institutions where they operate. The final observation concerns language certification, a distinctive feature of Regional Law 29/2007, with strategic value within the framework of the use of the Friulian language in a public context, and this is a positive aspect. ARLeF – Agenzie Agjenzie regionâl pe lenghe furlane, the Regional government and Udine University have been working since 2016-2017 to implement article 7 of the regional law. The results should appear shortly.

Sportello linguistico regionale per la lingua friulana (Regional Friulian language desk)

Article 16 of Regional Law no 6, dated 9 April 2014, amended by article 6, para. 94 of Regional Law no 14, dated 11 August 2016, designates ARLeF - Agenzie regionâl pe lenghe furlane/Agenzia regionale per la lingua friulana as the organization best qualified to introduce and run the Sportello linguistico regionale per la lingua friulana.

The total annual sums allocated to ARLeF to introduce and run the Sportello linguistico regionale per la lingua friulana is established by resolution of the Regional government, to be obtained from the funds under article 15, para. 1, of Law 482/1999. Institutions that do

not have their own Friulian language desk can apply to ARLeF - Agenzie regionâl pe lenghe furlane/Agenzia regionale per la lingua friulana.

The Regional language desk is financed by the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia using funding provided under Law 482/1999 and entrusted to ARLeF as the organization best qualified to run it. The service has a central office and four branch offices.

Each desk provides a language consultancy service and written translation from Italian into Friulian, with the aim of:

- ensuring citizens are able to use the Friulian language;
- providing advice on place names in the Friulian language for institutions that need to set up road signs and signs in general, and to guarantee conformity with place names officially established by Decree of the President of the Region no 16, dated 13/02/2014;
- providing information and guidance for the general public.

The services are provided to all local institutions, instrumental entities and firms holding concessions for the provision of public services included in the area covered by each desk.

The desk's various offices have been distributed so as to cover 5 geographic areas in the Region. Udine (central zone), Tolmezzo (northern zone), Gorizia (eastern zone), Muzzana (southern zone), San Vito al Tagliamento (western zone).

TEACHING

The teaching and learning of Friulian are part of a multilingual and plurilingual educational pathway based on a legal framework, Chapter III of Regional Law 29/2007, which is strongly influenced by the "opt-in principle" - the choice of whether or not to study the language. In this respect, the data deriving from the Direzione Generale dell'Ufficio Scolastico Regionale (Directorate General Office of the Regional Schools Office) is fairly encouraging. In fact, it is estimated that more than half of school students in the three Friulianophone provinces (Gorizia, Pordenone and Udine) have asked to be taught Friulian.

Friulian language teaching is available in infant, primary and lower secondary schools.

Every year, the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia Regional Schools Office collects data on requirements in terms of hours of Friulian language in schools, and the options of families with regard to learning Friulian.

By the 30th of September of each year, this data is sent to the Region which proceeds to issue a specific decree in order to transfer to each school the resources required by teachers for this educational activity and its management.

This financing is targeted at infant and primary schools, and both state and officially recognised private schools. So far, lower secondary schools have not been targeted as they are able to draw from other sources of financing (broadening the educational provision).

Families opt-in at registration, in compliance with article 4, para 5 Law no. 482 (Regulations on the matter of the protection of historical linguistic minorities), dated 15th of December 1999. The parents of the pupils let the school know whether they wish to take advantage of Friulian language teaching. Unless the parents reverse the choice which they made at registration, it is considered valid for the three years of infant school, the five years of primary school, and the three years of lower secondary school education.

What follows are the data relating to the families' choices for the 2017/2018 school year. This data relate to infant, primary and lower secondary schools, state institutions and officially recognised private schools located in the relevant municipalities in accordance with article 3 , para. 1, of Law 482/99.

Of the participating schools, 46 are from the former province of Udine, 4 from that of Gorizia and 11 from that of Pordenone. In addition, there are 70 officially recognised private schools from the former province of Udine and 11 from that of Pordenone.

Please note that there was a 66% opt-in for the Friulian language in the 2017/2018 school year overall for all three types of schools together (infant, primary and lower secondary schools) and 75% for infant and primary schools only.

This means that in lower secondary schools, where Friulian is part of the educational provision and not scheduled like in infant and primary schools, the number of families opting-in drops.

The trend of opting-in during the five years the law was in force in the region (from 2012 onwards) has been fairly constant after a drop of 10 points from the first to second year: 72%, 75%, 73%, 75%.

Note that in the former province of Gorizia the percentage of opt-ins fluctuated greatly: from 78% in 2012/2013 to a peak of 92% in 2015/2016, and then decreasing to 50% in 2017/2018.

In the former province of Pordenone the data on opting-in showed a decrease from 61% to 45% during the second year the law was in force, but then it stabilised at around 50%.

The province of Udine started from an opt-in percentage of 83% in 2012/2013; in the second year it dropped to 77%, and then rose progressively over the following years to reach 79% in 2017/2018.

The activities of the Commissione Permanente (Permanent Commission)

The Commissione permanente per la lingua friulana (Permanent Commission for the Friulian Language), chaired by the pro tempore councillor and consisting of a senior official from the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia and 5 experts in the field of the protection, promotion and teaching of the Friulian language, has periodically convened over the years to define the ongoing activities and to analyse regional activity.

Agreement between the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia and the University of Udine

The regional funding framework relating to the University of Udine is summarised in the following table:

	allocation	references	projects
2013	55,000.00 Euro	Regional Law 4/2001 art. 6 para 63	Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia - University of Udine agreement: 7 projects; 2 publications, video teaching materials, 3 appointments

2014	150,000.00 Euro	Regional Law 15/1996 art. 7 para 4	Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia - University of Udine agreement: Friulian language teaching activities, Friulian literature, minority rights, teaching, neurolinguistics and psycholinguistics, language teaching, written Friulian language, management, tutoring, conferences, secretariat, promotional activities, website development, materials and miscellaneous administrative activities
2015	-	-	-
2016	40,000.00 Euro	Regional Law 4/2001 art. 6 para 63	Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia - University of Udine agreement: CIRF promotional activities, research and teaching activities
2017	40,000.00 Euro	Regional Law 4/2001 art. 6 para 63	Triennial agreement for 2017-2019 to be drafted: 160,000.00 Euro

Elenco regionale insegnanti lingua friulana (Regional Directory of Friulian Language Teachers)

The need for Friulian language teachers is met by the people registered in the Elenco regionale insegnanti lingua friulana which is held at the Direzione Centrale Istruzione (Central Education Directorate) of the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia.

Such legislative provision is contained in the “Regulations for the teaching of the Friulian language in the territory of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, implementing what is described in Chapter III of Regional Law no. 29 (Regulations for the protection, promotion and advancement of the Friulian language)”, dated 18th December 2007. With decree no.

126/ISTR/2012 of 14th February 2012, the Regional Directory was set up and has subsequently been updated over the course of the years following the extension of the deadline for presentation of applications.

Art. 10, para 7 of the Regulations does in fact foresee an annual updating of the Directory, following the issuing of a special Announcement, after having consulted the labour organisations and the Commissione permanente per l'insegnamento della lingua friulana.

It is expected that teachers interested in signing up to the Regional Directory will submit an application in accordance with the terms and conditions laid down by the Avviso issued by the Central Director based on the titles identified by the Ufficio Scolastico Regionale; the 2019 application forms are currently being issued.

In processing the available data, the question as to who the teachers are that have registered can be answered.

- a) Currently there are 1594 teachers registered, with some new registrations and some cancellations. They are divided into 4 areas (infant, primary, lower secondary and upper secondary). Some teachers are registered in more than one area;
- b) 76% of teachers registered within the first two years. The number of applications for registration later decreased, with an annual number of less than 100;
- c) 90% are in the province of Udine;
- d) 80% are registered in the lists for Infant and Primary schools;
- e) 40% of teachers registered through a course taken at an institution and/or thanks to previous teaching experience;
- f) 20% have a University qualification.

Financial support for the schools

How are regional funds for Friulian language used?

The allocation and use of funds is defined by the regional laws in effect - laws that aim to give financial support to the public and officially recognised private schools in the region which are located in the appropriate municipalities for Friulian language. In particular:

- *Regional Law 3/2002, art. 7 paras 8 and 9. Financing of the teaching activities relating to the teaching of the Languages and Cultures of the Historical Language Minorities: yearly tender for the broadening of the teaching provision.*
- *Regional Law 29/2007, Chapter III. Financial support for the teaching of the Friulian language.*
- It should be noted that there has been substantial consistency in regional funding over the course of the years, even in years of scarcity or budgetary limits, with the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia committing and distributing on average 1.8 million euros/year, a total of approximately 7 million euros in 5 years.

This figure has been used in the following manner:

- a) approximately 100,000 euros/year for teaching in lower secondary schools, by competitive selection;
- b) 1,600,000.00 euros/year for teaching in infant and primary schools (public and officially recognised private schools¹) according to demand, through the Regional School Office.

In view of the fact that 94% of the funding is used for the financial support of teaching the language in schools in the region, it may be useful to further analyse what the most significant data are.

In particular, it should be noted that:

- 72% of the subsidies go to istituti comprensivi² in the province of Udine;
- 22% of the contributions go to istituti comprensivi in the provinces of Pordenone and Gorizia;
- 5.6% of the funds are requested from officially recognised private schools.

At the conclusion of the report, it could be useful to remember what the various methods are to quantify the contributions distributed to the schools which, in the case of lower secondary schools, are calculated by means of numerous and objective parameters to

¹ Translator note Officially recognised private schools carry out a public service. They are included in the national educational system and issue formal qualifications that have the same legal value as those issued by state schools.

² A Comprehensive Institute includes within in the same organisation at least one infant school, a primary school and a lower secondary school, located near to each other, which maintain their own identities but which have a single school administration which manages the three school levels.

determine the characteristics of the schools, centres and pupils. In the case of infant and primary schools, the amount is calculated on the basis of the hours of teaching and the hourly costs, as defined in the national collective bargaining agreement.

The methods for calculating the contribution in this case are defined according to parameters set out by the Regional School Office and they vary according to the use of personnel that are internal or external to the school.

The most significant annual data is the following:

- estimated hours 82,000/year 2017, of which 55,000/year was for financing;
- 53% of hours were covered by internal personnel;
- staff external to the school accounted for 57% of the cost.

26,000 hours/year = 1 million euros.

Between 2012 to 2017, there was a substantial continuity of funding in favour of the systematic introduction of Friulian in schools in the Friulianophone area, with the Region committed to distributing an average of 1.8 million Euro per year with a total of approximately 7 million Euro over 5 years. With respect to full regional implementation of the regional law 29/2007, it should be highlighted that a substantial difficulty remains. The process of learning the Friulian language in school will never be truly guaranteed, as the law wants, while the “principle of opt-in” continues to exist. The principle of being able to choose whether or not to study Friulian at school should be overcome, and not only because in reality it causes many organisational problems in the schools (to put it simply: what do we do with the children who do not wish to study Friulian?). It could also result in a split in the social cohesion of the community, with first class and second class languages.

As far as the school environment is concerned, it is important to remember that in 2014, on the initiative of ARLeF (Agjenzie regjonâl pe lenghe furlane), the Region, the University of Udine and the Regional School Office got together to draw up a strategic action plan to be put forward together. It was agreed that the University, with the support of the Region, would have to once again take care of teacher training, both initial training and that whilst in

service. This was also to be achieved through increasing staff. The production of teaching materials and the need to organise a regional Centre for training materials was looked into. Thanks to the coordination of ARLeF and others, some results have been achieved: the Documentation Center (DOCUSCUELE) exists today - and it is growing - and various educational material has been distributed to teachers. In particular, the strategic importance of the “Ladint/Lenghis” project is worth a mention. This project, which is currently under development, will become patrimony of the regional teaching materials Centre and will need to be supported in the correct way along with the “La Lavagne Plurilengâ” project. As far as information on the advantages of plurilingual education and the teaching of Friulian in schools is concerned, two ARLeF projects need to be mentioned: “Cressi cun plui lenghis/Crescere con più lingue” (Growing up with multiple languages) and the “Pavee” information campaign, in collaboration with the Region and the Regional Education Department, that enabled the distribution, for the first time, of 60,000 pamphlets to parents and teachers and at the same time made use of television, cinema and the internet as promotional tools in the area. One fundamental element which concerns (and this must be emphasised) many sectors but has a particular importance in schools is that of language certification, for which criteria and tests began to be drawn up in 2016-2017. It is important, in a progressive way with attention to the general picture, to overcome the self-certification system through objectively certifying the teacher's linguistic skills, but not only that of the teachers. It is a route that, as happens when competencies are added, should be accompanied by both legislative recognition (teachers must be qualified as Friulian teachers) and economic recognition.

Finally, it should be emphasised that the scarce autonomy in the scholastic field prejudices the Friuli Venezia Giulia region from best guaranteeing the teaching of Friulian.

7. PRESENCE IN THE MASS MEDIA

In terms of the presence of Friulian in the media (meaning printed material, radio, television, audiovisual productions and the internet), even if through the years it has grown thanks to

the internet and it has pretty much set itself free from the folkloristic and traditional vision of Friuli, it is not in a position to compete with productions in the Italian language because its presence is not daily and continuous.

Printed Materials

Friulian language publications: the information, politics and culture monthly publication, *La Patrie dal Friûl*; a page and various regular articles in the weekly magazine *La Vita Cattolica*, which also distributes (as a supplement, not as a regular edition) the children's comic *Alc&Cè* featuring cartoons, games and in depth reports in Friulian which is also used in schools; the single page "Maman!" in the weekly magazine "Il Friuli" which contains readings, trivia and games for children; monthly pages in *Voce Isontina* and the daily paper "Messaggero Veneto", both edited by Società Filologica Friulana; a periodic page in "Udinese Magazine" edited by the Agenzia regionale per la lingua friulana; articles in Friulian can also be found in the free monthly "Il Paîs" which can also be read online. There are other periodicals also published completely or in part in Friulian, although not all are regular: literary and scientific reviews, in depth analysis on current events, publications edited by cultural associations. Not all benefit from public funding. Some of the publications mentioned can be downloaded from the web.

Private radio stations

Looking at private radio stations (we will look at public services later), Friulian is used above all by two radio stations, Radio Onde Furlane and Radio Spazio 103. These produce and transmit daily news bulletins, various information programmes, in depth analysis and entertainment in Friulian. These two broadcasters have guaranteed continuity and quality, substituting the public service (for example, with the news programmes), and have succeeded to offer and experiment with innovative formats. For example, "Çurviei scjampâts", a weekly program on Radio Space 103, live and open to the listeners, which is dedicated to the topics of new Friulian emigration with a humorous perspective and references to the history of the Friuli. It is conceived and directed by Teatro Incerto. Another example is Radio Onde Furlane with its on location live broadcasts of sports events like for

example Udinese matches, cultural events such as “Suns Europe”, “Vicino/Lontano” and “Far East Festival Film”, and popular events like “Friuli Doc” and “Gusti di Frontiera”. These latter productions have in particular also been produced thanks to the publication by the Agenzia regionale per la lingua friulana of specific tenders for radio and television productions. Various radio programmes can be listened to including in streaming and podcast formats.

Private televisions channels

Programs in Friulian are produced and broadcast by some private television channels, but without sufficient continuity. One exception is VideoTeleCarnia, a community television channel that has been broadcasting various programs in Friulian for many years on the history, traditions, the area and life in Carnia with meagre public funding. Another is TeleAltoBût which makes programmes about the area and its people, above all about what happens in Paluzza (where it has its base) and in the valley. The only new addition on television is “Maman!” on Telefriuli, the first television broadcast for children in Friulian, edited, produced and financed by ARLeF in collaboration with the broadcasting station. It offers games, cartoons and programmes. It has a different host for every broadcast and, furthermore, the episodes can be downloaded from the internet.

Internet

The current mass media situation on the internet is dynamic, but this is not so for the Friulian language, which is nearly always absent, even on the websites of the media which broadcast or write in Friulian. The same thing also applies in the case of newspapers in the social media. The same almost total absence can also be seen in the communications of the public websites of regional agencies, including the municipalities, the ones which are the closest to the citizens. The only exceptions are; the websites of newspapers that produce content completely in Friulian such as “La Patrie dal Friûl”; Radio Onde Furlane; friul.net; bodies such as Società Filologica Friulana, with its bilingual website, who also offer a news section, and Associazione GlesieFurlane. Information of a personal nature exists on the internet. This is growing and also represents a way of broadcasting news. The forerunners of

this were the bloggers: those who are still active today play an information providing role. Within social media, the situation is particularly lively on Facebook where there are groups for friendship and for sharing things with many users, many of them creative, but they use a “low” Friulian, demonstrating insufficient knowledge of the written language and the official spelling. On other social sites, the language is almost non-existent. On video platforms, the presence of Friulian is sporadic. It is mostly used to upload videos by private individuals, associations, television channels... but there isn't a well structured channel.

Institutional information

The weekly broadcast “Contile juste” on Telefriuli used to broadcast on the institutional activities of the Province of Udine, which financed it until April 2018 (the date on which the Province of Udine was discontinued). It provided an in-depth look into matters that involved Friulian language and culture, it is also available on the net. The Facebook page “Furlan in Comun”, part of the project of the same name started by the Municipality of Udine, provides information in Friulian on initiatives and facts that involve the Municipality, the city, and the minorities in general and their safeguarding. Speaking of institutions, in 2007 the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia opened an information website in three languages: Friulian, Slovenian and German. The main events of interest for the Friulian community were reported on the news page of the regional council, next to (therefore with equal graphic dignity and prominence) those in Italian. They were listed by the journalistic staff of the press agency of the Presidency of the Region. The listing service placed Friuli Venezia Giulia at the forefront in Italy for implementing the regulations safeguarding minority languages in the field of public administration information. The listing in Friulian, while lacking any dedicated staff, has been maintained but has not been sufficiently implemented, and over time, this information providing activity has greatly diminished. Furthermore, it has been three years since the trilingual website was updated in German, and the Slovenian has not been updated since September 2017.

Financed activities

The role of the Region in the teaching of the Friulian language is covered by Chapter IV of the 29/2007 regional law that describes the adoption of a specific regulation for the sector. To such an aim, with the Decree of the President of the Region no. 0279/Pres of the 25th of November 2011, *the Region enacted a Regulation for the concession of subsidies for the promotion of the Friulian language through television and radio programmes* as per article 20 of the 29/07 regional law, which we invite you to read for a detailed analysis of the regulations in the sector.

Regional Law 29/2007 which is appended to Regional Law 15/1996, unlike the previous regulations, introduced the provision of specific regulations for the administration of subsidising activities on radio and television only, leaving it up to the Agenzia regionale per la lingua friulana to finance other publishing and communication projects through fundraising activities.

Taking a look at the activities financed between 2013 and 2018, the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia financed 8 private television and 2 private radio stations to a total of 100 thousand Euro, all allocated during 2014. This was thanks to the 29/2007 regional Law and through the Servizio volontariato e lingue minoritarie (Voluntary service and minority languages). No funds were distributed in 2013, 2015, 2016 or 2017.

In comparison with the activities financed during the previous 5 years - from 2008 after regional law 29/2007 was approved - it can be seen that the funds allocated for mass media in 2012 had been greatly reduced. The old Servizio corregionali all'estero e lingue minoritarie (Fellow regional citizens abroad and minority languages service) had in fact allocated 700 thousand Euro for private radio and television stations, 7 times as much compared with the previous 5 years.

In short, direct funds from the Region diminished, and the Region delegated to ARLeF (Regional Agency for the Friulian Language), through calls for funding, the financing of various projects relating to communication in the audiovisual sector (radio, television, cinematographic productions and animations) and publishing projects such as those involving magazines, books, audiobooks, software and applications. From 2013 to 2017, the

Regional Agency for Friulian Language distributed a total of 399,500 Euro in funds, of which 256,600 Euro were for strictly informative activities. The sum of these funds and those assigned by the Region directly were lower than those allocated during the 5 previous years. ARLeF has supported: “Cîl and tiere” - the biannual periodical for scientific publishing in the Friulian language published by Forum on behalf of Società Scientifica e Tecnologica Friulana (Scientific and Technological Friulian Society) which was set up to familiarise readers with the world of research, inventions and discoveries and to develop scientific terminology in the Friulian language (the periodical can be downloaded from the Internet in electronic format); the children's periodical Alc&Cè; the television production “Int/Art” - a Agherose project comprising a series of monographic documentaries in the Friulian language with Italian and English subtitles which tell the story of young Friulian artists who, in the era of globalization, choose this minority language as a mode of expression; the “Restâ cu la int” project - a Raja Film production in which the first chapter, “Missus”, tells the story of the daily battle to keep alive their language and culture by the last priests of the Associazione Glesie Furlane, the church of the Friulians; the “Fieste de Patrie 2016” promotional video; the “Mancul mâl” video production by Felici ma furlans, a cinematographic quality series filmed in the Friulian language which combines comedy and drama, this has not yet been released but will be distributed on various platforms. Some audiovisual programmes financed directly or indirectly by ARLeF have been broadcast on the regional RAI channel.

Furthermore, the ARLeF financed Radio Spazio 103 allowing them to broadcast both the “Il drâc di Udin” project, which resulted in the publication of a homonym booklet inspired by an old legend, and also the program “Çurviei scjampâts”. ARLeF also financed three projects for Cooperativa Informazione Friulana which were made with Radio Onde Furlane: “Radio alive”, which had the aims of reinforcing the presence of Friulian in terms of both quantity (with more transmissions) and quality, and providing a closer connection with the territory; “Friûl Revolution”, a pseudo-documentary audiovisual project of a satirical nature which describes, a little in Friulian and a little in Italian, Friulian society today and its revolutionary tensions (narrated by the i Cjastrons trio); the “Onde Furlane App”, the development of two applications which make available in real time the communication services of the

Cooperativa di Informazione friulana in its role as editor, and also through the newspaper Radio Onde Furlane. Furthermore, ARLeF has started a collaboration with Telefriuli in the production of the weekly children's programme, "Maman!". After a first successful season (2016/2017), the second one saw an investment of 80 thousand Euro provided half by Telefriuli and half by ARLeF. The ARLeF assigned 48 thousand Euro for the production of new cartoons broadcast in 2018. In 2017, an investment of 11 thousand Euro was made in order to broadcast the series "Omenuts". These initiatives were part of the collaboration with Telefriuli.

Public Radio and Television, and noncompliance with law 482/99

Art. 12 of law 482/99 describes the rights of linguistic minorities in Italy in the field of radio and television broadcasting. In the first comma of this article, the law specifies that conditions for their protection must be insured both in the convention with which the Ministry of Communications entrusts the production of the public radio and television services to a concessionary company (today, RAI), and also in the resulting contract of service. With this comma, the law recognises that the protection of minorities is an integral part of the role of the public service.

The law furthermore states that the Regions involved can draft special conventions for regional broadcasts in minority languages, both with the concessionary company of the public service (RAI), and with local stations. The responsibility, as far as the supervision of the protection of linguistic minorities in the area of mass communications, is that of the Regulator and the competition authority for the broadcasting, telecommunications and the radiocommunications spectrum.

The 482/99 law has found a very concrete and advanced interpretation in the implementation Regulations (Presidential Decree 345/2001). In particular, as far as the implementation of article 12 of the law is concerned, the Regulation (in art. 11) states that the conventions and the service contracts between the Ministry of Communications and the concessionary company of the public service should state: "ideally in the territory of each minority, the location of the centre of the headquarters of the company to which the

activities of protection of the minority are attributed”. Every minority will therefore be able to refer to a regional centre of RAI which has been entrusted with transmissions in its language. The Regulation is very precise on this subject, so much so as to list in art. 1 the concessionary company of the public service among the agencies and institutions to which must be communicated the provisions concerning the geographical boundaries of the areas in which the various languages listed are protected, so that the concessionary company may, as soon as possible, take care of relocating offices.

Thanks to the critical contribution of the State Council (opinion no. 4/01 of the Advisory Section for Legislation of 15.1.2001), the Regulation also foresees another obligation of great innovative potential. With art. 11, the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (signed, but not ratified by Italy) was introduced in Italian legislation for the first time. In practice, the regulation establishes that the convention and the public service contract between the government and RAI must indicate a minimum radio and television content which is guaranteed for each minority, choosing for each of them one of the measures foreseen by art. 11, comma 1, letter a) of the Paper. In conclusion, thanks to the Regulation, law 482 acquired an unprecedented concreteness and incisiveness.

Article 11 (dedicated to the mass media) of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages of the Council of Europe provides the ratifying States with seven different options for the creation of radio and TV stations and the broadcasting of radio and television programmes in minority languages. From these options, the State can choose to guarantee the most suitable one for the community. The option in the Implementation Regulation concerns the case in which "radio and television have a public service mission", and provides for three different levels of commitment. There are 3 choices:

1. to guarantee the creation of a radio station and a TV channel;
2. to encourage it and/or to facilitate it;
3. "to take adequate measures to ensure that radio and television agencies broadcast in regional or minority languages".

The first Service contract that dealt with the issue of linguistic minorities in accordance to law 482/99 and the related Regulations was drawn up between the Ministry of Communications and RAI in 2003 (Presidential Decree of the 14th of February 2003) with a validity until the end of 2005. The contract first of all provided a general principle according to which RAI undertook “to assure the conditions for the protection of the recognised linguistic minorities in their areas of belonging, and to adopt and promote initiatives for the development of minority languages present in Italy in collaboration with specialist local institutions”.

Included within this framework was the possibility for RAI to stipulate “conventions for which the full or partial financial burden is the responsibility of the local interested agencies, in a regional, provincial or municipal context, for programmes or news broadcasts in the languages listed for protection, within their own regional radio and television programming”.

Additionally, in direct implementation of art. 11 of Presidential Decree 345/2001, the contract provided that, within ninety days of coming into force, a Commission would be set up consisting of the Ministry and RAI which would determine the location of the headquarters of the companies which carry out the activities protecting the recognised linguistic minority as well as the minimal guaranteed content. Such a Commission was however never established and therefore what was prescribed by law 482/99 and by the service contract was never implemented.

Even the successive service Contract of 2007-2009 between the Ministry of Communications and RAI (approved with the decree of the Minister of Communications on the 6th of April 2007) did not directly specify the local centres responsible for programming in minority languages or the minimal level of protection. The Contract - in parallel with the provisions of the previous convention - in fact limited itself to transferring such decisions to the joint RAI-Ministry Commission which, in this case also, never deliberated on the subject, despite the 90 day term stipulated in the contract itself.

Due to the obvious difficulties in getting the rights to the Friulian language broadcasts to be recognised in the national service contract as established by the 482/99 law, in 2002 the

Region decided to undertake a different and independent path, establishing a direct relationship with the RAI centre in Friuli Venezia Giulia in accordance with art. 29 of the 15/96 regional law on the protection and promotion of the Friulian language. According to this regulation, which is still in effect, “the regional Administration is authorised to stipulate a convention with RAI-Radiotelevisione Italiana for the production of television programmes in the Friulian language to be included in the regional network framework”. From 2002 to 2010, the Region supplemented the lack of state financing with a total of €1,617,000.00.

Various television and radio programmes have been produced thanks to such conventions, some of which have been very successful (for example, some television broadcasts for children, documentaries and fiction). Since 2008, there have been daily broadcasts from Monday to Friday between 12.20 and 12.30 and between 15.15 and 15.30 of current events and in-depth radio programmes during peak listening times. As the regional centre of RAI has emphasised, “the daily average number of users has been 280 thousand people, with a remarkable characteristic of loyalty and with a share higher than the national average for the same time slot”, an indication that programming in Friulian is very much appreciated by the listeners in the region.

The first provision in the service contract of an appropriate regulation on transmissions in Friulian was the 2010-2012 Service contract which allowed the impasse of the past to be overcome. With such a contract, Friulian joined German, French, Ladin and Slovenian in gaining full rights among this group of specified protected languages, exactly like the “stronger” minority languages, even while being limited to only “radio” broadcasts, with a yearly state allocation of 200,000 Euro. The same arrangement was also included in the 2013-2015 Contract of Service (which was later extended until the end of 2017).

A remarkable step ahead has been made with the most recent 2018-2022 Service contract. Article 25, comma 1, letter k) does, in fact, foresee that:

RAI (in accordance with what is provided for by art.3, comma 1, letter g) of the Convention) is required to guarantee the production and broadcasting of radio and television programmes and audiovisual content in both German and Ladin for the

Autonomous province of Bolzano, in Ladin for the Autonomous province of Trento, in the Sardinian language for the Autonomous region of Sardinia, in French for the Autonomous region of Valle d'Aosta and in Friulian and Slovenian for the Autonomous region

of Friuli Venezia Giulia. For the Friuli Venezia Giulia and Valle d'Aosta regions and for the autonomous provinces of Trento and Bolzano, the current conventions between the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and RAI are renewed every three months, as foreseen by the 14th of April 1975 law no. 103 and subsequent amendments and additions. RAI is required to present to the Ministry responsible for determining the jurisdictions, within six months of the present Contract's date of publication in the Gazzetta Ufficiale, an operational plan agreed with the regions concerned for the purpose of stipulating the relative conventions, without prejudice to the conventions for the second period. This is done in order to ensure the implementation of the provisions aimed at the protection of the languages as per law no. 482 of the 15th of December 1999, considering, in more detail, the following criteria:

- i) differentiation of requirements according to the respective geographical areas;
- ii) the need to pursue effective and efficient aims;
- iii) the characteristics of the various distribution platforms with regard to the target to be achieved;

Therefore, the current public service contract already provides for an obligation to “guarantee the production and distribution of radio and television broadcasts in the Friulian language”, **an obligation which at the moment is not being upheld.**

Such violation becomes clearly obvious when reading the text of the Prime Minister's decree of the 22nd of December 2017 relating to the “Approval of the convention stipulated

between the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, the Department of information and RAI Com S.P.A. for the transmission of radio and television programmes in French in the Region of Valle d'Aosta, and radio and television programmes in Slovenian as well as radio programmes in Italian and Friulian in the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region”, published in the Gazzetta Ufficiale no. 61 of the 14th of March 2018, in which there is no mention of television broadcasts in Friulian at all. The following is an overview of the decree regarding Friulian:

Art. 2.

1. RAI Com, on behalf of RAI, is committed to the production and distribution of radio and television broadcasts in Friulian, Italian and Slovenian in the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia, as follows:

4,517 hours of radio broadcasting in Slovenian;

90 hours of radio broadcasting in Friulian;

1,667 hours of radio broadcasting in Italian;

208 hours of television broadcasting in Slovenian;

2. (omissis)

3. The broadcasts must comprise news services and programs of an informative, artistic and cultural nature consistent with the particular requirements of the areas concerned.

Art. 7.

Costs

1. For carrying out the services listed in art. 2, comma 1 of this convention, the Presidency of the Council of Ministers will pay RAI Com, for the period relating to this current convention, 11,600,000.00 (eleven million and six hundred thousand) Euro inclusive of VAT for the radio and television broadcasts in Italian and Slovenian, as

well as a further 200,000.00 (two hundred thousand) Euro inclusive of VAT for the radio transmissions in Friulian.

(omissis)

The serious non-fulfilment of the public broadcasting service was reported by letter to the top management of RAI on the 23rd of October 2018. The letter was signed by 76 mayors belonging to the *Comunità Linguistica Friulana* (Friulian Linguistic Community) who adhered to the contents of the motion unanimously approved by the Regional Council on the 26th of July 2018 concerning the need for a serious commitment for the strengthening and promotion of information and the bodies which protect the regional linguistic minorities. The motion committed the Regional council to implement the legal provisions relating to the promotion of cultures and protection of the linguistic minorities present in region, and to expanding and improving the editorial office in Udine and the correspondence office in Pordenone, with the aim of guaranteeing radio and television broadcasts in Friulian in order to achieve at least equality in programming hours with Slovenian.

On the 26th of January 2019, the Friulian mayors once again asked the Government and RAI television for broadcasts in Friulian and for the funds necessary to guarantee their immediate launch on regional RAI through a specific provision for the Friuli Venezia Giulia region to be included in the next convention that will be underwritten by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and RAI, and must be compliant with regulations by April 2019, and the allocation of the funds needed to guarantee the television broadcasts over the course of the 2019-2022 four-year term, with the number of hours and resources not less than those planned in Slovenian.

8. USE IN THE ARTS AND OTHER AREAS OF SOCIAL LIFE

In spite of a rather lacking comprehensive language policies promoting the Friulian language, spontaneous growth can be seen in the social use of the language. Radio, television, Internet and printed media undoubtedly account for one part of such use, while arts and creative

industries represent the other half of the equation: The great number of music, theatre or film initiatives is certainly a laudable fact, although there is no tool to document all the material, record its existence and thus promote the best productions. Recently, the Friulian language started to be used in new social contexts, such as hospitals and outpatient clinics, companies and the world of science and technology. Although the Friulian church has been waiting for a formal authorisation from the Vatican, it advocates the use of the Friulian language in liturgical settings and has provided for a complete translation of the Holy Bible, the Lectionary and the Missal. The social use of the Friulian language also received a boost from IT applications, which are new communication tools and also services promoting languages. Based on the programming efforts started by OLF and continued with the support of ARLeF, two precious products were produced by CFL2000 and CLAAP, which were “Grant Dizionari Bilengâl Talian Furlan” (GDBTF) and the “Coretôr Ortografic Furlan”, respectively. Recently, these efforts were supplemented by the recent works on the corpus, the apps for using the GDBTF on smartphones and the “Jude” automated translation tool, which the Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia on suggestion by ARLeF made available to local authorities in 2016/2017 and is expected to be finally acquired. Recently, WordPress, the most widely used software for creating websites has been localised to Friulian just recently. A last note on the social use of the Friulian language: We miss a permanent and recognised organisation capable of scientifically studying the lexical changes in the language, particularly the specialised terminology and the numerous neologisms that keep appearing in the numerous fields, where language is used for specific purposes. Regarding the use on radio and TV, as well as the use of the language on the Internet and on printed paper: Although required by Act 482/1999, TV and radio programmes in the Friulian language are still rare and patchy on the public service. The use of the Friulian language, happily, is growing in other social contexts. The Friulian language crosses all musical styles: from traditional chansons to ethnic folk-rock, jazz and new rock, rap and electronic music. Currently, there is a vast production of songs and music with an array of musicians writing a rich page in the history of contemporary Friulian culture and thus the Friulian language, history and culture is confronted with other cultures and languages. It is therefore not by chance that in 2009 the cooperatives Informazione Friulana and il Campo, with the support

of ARLeF and of the Municipality of Udine, have started a project entitled “SUNS Europe”, a leading European performance-arts festival in minority languages. More than a few theatre artists have managed to bring the Friulian language closer to the contemporary languages and thus strengthening its cultural identity. In 2011 a three-year (2011-2013) cooperation agreement was signed between 14 entities that created the “Farie Teatrâl Furlane” project with the aim of strengthening and supporting playwrights and professional theatre shows in the Friulian language, although a permanent Friulian theatre is still missing. An important contribution to the expansion of film production in the Friulian language is being given by the “Mostre dal Cine Furlan”. The results of the event show in an increase in the quality and quantity of shorts, documentaries, experimental films and cartoons. The challenge for the future is to ensure continuity to these and other cultural projects in the Friulian language to ensure more regularity and to guarantee financing through ordinary laws by supporting culture (cinema, theatre, festivals, etc.) and getting rid of regulation discriminating against regional languages, replacing them with provisions only judging the quality of products. Other initiatives and projects aimed at spreading the use of the Friulian language in daily interactions come from cultural associations operating through a network of local connections and based on permanent organisations. Because of their importance and tenure, the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia has recognised their special role or "a function of primary importance" in the case of Società Filologica Friulana “ and consequently a targeted financial contribution pursuant Chapter V of Regional Act no. 29/2007. It is worth noting here that these organisations are media outlets offering public service and are--in most cases--ongoing concerns with considerable numbers of employees and therefore need to receive financing at the beginning of every year. Although the regional contributions have increased over the past five years, after a period of cuts under the previous mandate, it is also a fact that unfortunately the timeliness of the payments has worsened.

9. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE BODIES FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE LANGUAGE

- ***Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia - Servizio volontariato, lingue minoritarie e corregionali all'estero (Office for Volunteerism, Minority Languages and Regional Expats)***

Pursuant to Article 31 of the “General Organisational Structure of Regional Administration and Determination of the Functions of the Organisational Units of the Presidency of the Region, of the Central Directorates and Regional Entities” contained in Regional Council Decision no. 1363 of 23 July 2018, amended by Regional Council Decisions no. 1429 of 27 July 2018, no. 1568 of 24 August 2018, n. 2118 of 16 November 2018 and no. 2516 of 28 December 2018 the Servizio volontariato, lingue minoritarie e corregionali all'estero in Trieste is in charge of the following activities:

- a) offering support to associations and bolstering solidarity through programmes and tangible measures to support volunteerism, community services and social advancement;
- b) keeping the professional and general registers set out in the regional acts regulating volunteerism, community services and social advancement;
- c) coordinating policies aimed at protecting linguistic minorities with the competent bodies at national level;
- d) carrying out public services and measures aimed at protecting and advancing the languages and the cultures of the Slovenian minority, the Friulian-speaking population and the German-speaking communities;
- e) carrying out public services and measures through recognised associations of the region abroad or directly supplying services to persons of the region abroad or those, who have just come back, while offering support to entities and associations operating in this field;
- f) coordinating the measures of Article 14, second paragraph, of Act no. 19 of 9 January 1991.

Web site:

<http://www.regione.fvg.it/rafvfg/cms/RAFVG/cultura-sport/patrimonio-culturale/comunita-linguistiche/>

- **ARLeF – Agenzie regionâl pe lenghe furlane (Regional Agency for the Friulian Language)**

ARLeF – Agenzie regionâl pe lenghe furlane (Regional Agency for the Friulian Language) is an entity established by the Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia coordinating the activities aimed at protecting and promoting the Friulian language as laid down in the laws of the region.

The Agency offers language advice to public and private organisations alongside a series of other activities to spread the use of the Friulian language across the main aspects of everyday life, in families, mass media, new technologies, public administration, scientific research, entertainment, arts, culture and employment.

ARLeF has competence for defining language policies for the Friulian language, while coordinating and verifying the implementation of measures laid out in Regional Act no. 29 of 18 December 2007 (Provisions on the Protection, Advancement and Promotion of the Friulian Language) and of other regional laws on the Friulian language and culture. Additionally, ARLeF publishes calls for bids aimed at public entities, associations and private organisations to subsidise activities aimed at promoting the use of the Friulian language in book publishing, entertainment and research.

ARLeF prepared and submitted a **General Language Policy Programme (PGPL)** and a draft regulating the procedures and criteria for obtaining **Language Certificates**. Both documents have been submitted to the Regional Council, which approved them in 2015 and 2014 respectively. The General Language Policy Programme (PGPL) is a fundamental strategic programming tool for the Friulian language and cultural identity to implement the goals of the Regional Act no. 29/2007:

- guaranteeing the language rights to Friulian-speaking citizens;

- promoting the use of the Friulian language in daily interactions and the development of a language code applicable to every-day life;
- ensuring a uniform language policy through the coordination the programmed actions across public and private entities and organisations;
- setting the priorities of regional measures in education;
- laying down the criteria and the priorities for the activities of the media and in supporting associations.

Subsidies granted by the Region to ARLeF in 2013-2017

2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total 2013-2017
€ 400,000.00	€ 650,000.00	€ 830,000.00	€ 950,000.00	€ 1,075,000.00	€ 3,905,000.00

In addition to regular financing, ARLeF also receives subsidies from the Region. Thus, the Regional Office for the Friulian Language has received the following amounts (except for 2014) for its operations in line with national Act No. 482/1999: €40,000.00 in 2013 and another €60,000.00 after the re-balancing of the regional budget; €145,799.00 in 2015; €278,972.55, with an additional €90,000.00 carried over as surplus from previous financial years. In 2016-2017 it also received earmarked funds, namely €100,000.00 for organising the “Fieste de Patrie dal Friûl and the €50,000.00 for the related Staffetta delle minoranze (Minorities' Relay). In 2017, it received €40,000.00 for organising the 2nd Conference Verifying and for Proposals for the Implementation of Regional Act no. 29/2007.

Additionally, the specific situation of ARLeF is worth emphasising, since it is in charge of a considerable number of tasks, but still struggles considerably to hire staff on a permanent basis. As the organisation cannot offer stable employment--as already happened and continues to happen--it risks losing the best scientific staff with the longest experience and specialities that are hard to come by elsewhere. The

situation, also implying problems with continuously providing services to the Friulian language community should be resolved with absolute urgency, considering the 12 years since the approval of Regional Act no. 29/2007 and 20 years since the national Act no. 482/1999.

Web site: www.arlef.it

- ***The former Province of Gorizia was put into liquidation on 1 January 2017 and finally abolished on 30 September 2017 in line with Regional Act 26/2014 and subsequent amendments.***

- Sportello identità linguistiche (Language Communities' Office)

The Service for Local Language Identities catered for a variety of needs of the Directorate in terms of spoken and written use of the Friulian and Slovenian languages in line with the provisions on the protection and promotion of linguistic identities.

The Service was also home to the Office for Linguistic Identities, which operated as a front office for internal and external users.

One of the main tasks of the Office was giving a general coordination framework to the number of measures offered to the Friulian and Slovenian linguistic communities in an array of areas: from education to culture and to the economy.

The Office also contributed to preparing and managing projects, financed in line with Act no. 482/99, Act no. 38/01 and Regional Act 15/96.

It aided internal and external public bodies (local entities and national organisations) by providing translation and interpreting services.

In addition to that, it also helped and advice to local entities with the implementation of the rules on the protection and promotion of local languages.

It also operated as a liaison office between the Servizio identità linguistiche, culturali e corregionali all'estero of the Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia and other provinces.

It received requests and notifications from local communities, entities, institutions and associations about problems with the protection and advancement of their cultural identities, while also actively working to solve them.

It offered support and it promoted publications in the Friulian and Slovenian languages, directly or indirectly organised events with the aim of advancing and promoting multilingualism and cohabitation.

It gathered EU, national, regional and provincial laws on linguistic identities in a systematic way.

It offered support to the Consulta provinciale per la comunità friulana (Provincial Consultation Body for the Friulian Community) and to the Consulta provinciale per la comunità slovena (Provincial Consultation Body for the Slovenian Community), both representing the two minority groups and required by the Statute.

- ***The former Province of Pordenone was put into liquidation on 1 January 2017 and finally abolished on 30 September 2017 in line with Regional Act 26/2014 and subsequent amendments.***
 - ***Sportello Linguistico Friulano (Friulian Language Office)***

- ***The former Province of Udine remained active until 22 April 2018 in line with Regional Act 26/2014 and subsequent amendments.***
 - ***Servizio Promozione delle Identità della Provincia di Udine (Service for the Promotion of Identities of the Province of Udine)***
 - language-consulting services including translations;
 - language promotion aimed at completely introducing the Friulian language in the interested parts of the province and at generally strengthening the status of the Friulian communities;
 - keeping in touch with the Friulian communities abroad;
 - advancing the Friulian language and other historical minority languages in the local area;

- analysing all the activities promoting the language and the culture of the Friulian communities;
 - managing subsidy requests for activities aimed at protecting the Friulian language and other minority languages in line with Article 26 of Regional Act no. 24/2006;
 - managing subsidy requests for activities aimed at keeping ties with Friulian communities in the world and other historical minority languages of Friuli Venezia Giulia.
- ***Municipalities and other public bodies*** (see. Paragraph 5 "Public Administration")
 - ***Associations (Regional Act no. 29/2007, Article 24)***

The regional administration recognises the special function of public and private entities offering high-quality, continuous activities within the region with the aim of promoting and spreading the use of the Friulian language, which also have permanent establishments and are suitably organised and staffed:

These following have been recognised thus far:

- a) Cultural Association **Colonos** from Villacaccia di Lestizza (www.colonos.it) – promoting the Friulian language and culture by organising art events and shows;
- b) Association **Glesie Furlane** from Villanova di San Daniele (www.glesiefurlane.org) – promoting the Friulian language and culture mostly in ecclesiastic settings;
- c) Cultural Association **La Grame** from Mereto di Tomba (www.lagrame.it) – promoting the Friulian language and culture mainly through publications;
- d) Clape di culture **Patrie dal Friûl** from Gemona del Friuli (www.lapatriedalfriul.org/) – promoting the Friulian language and culture with the monthly publication “La Patrie dal Friûl”;
- e) Cultural Association **Istitût Ladin Furlan Pre Checo Placerean** from Codroipo (www.istitutladinfurlan.it) – promoting the Friulian language and culture through events bringing together Italian and foreign minorities and through publications;

f) Cooperative **Informazione Friulana** from Udine (www.ondefurlane.eu) – promoting the Friulian language and culture by running the only radio station that for 30 years has been producing and broadcasting shows in the mother tongue only; It also cooperates in carrying out projects in schools and with young children.

g) **Radio Spazio 103** from Udine (<http://www.radiospazio103.it/>) – is the radio station of the Arch-Diocese of Udine offering much space to shows in the Friulian language;

h) **Kappa Vu** s.a.s. from Udine (www.shop.kappavu.it) - promoting the Friulian language and culture through publications;

i) **Societât Sientifiche e Tecnologjiche Furlane** from Udine (www.siencis-par-furlan.net/) - promoting the Friulian language and culture by publishing a series of scientific studies in the mother tongue.;

- The Region has also recognised the primary importance of **Societât Filologjiche Furlane - Società Filologica Friulana G.I. Ascoli of Udine** (www.filologicafriulana.it) - Società Filologica friulana is a trust that has been operating for 100 years (established in 1919) on the Friulian territory in an effort to promote and advance the Friulian language and culture through publications, periodicals, Friulian language courses, projects for schools, etc.

- ***Biblioteca Civica V. Joppi di Udine***

Regional Act no. 15/96 (paragraphs 1 and 2) recognises the important role of Biblioteca Civica V. Joppi of Udine. “The Region has recognised Biblioteca civica “Vincenzo Joppi” of Udine as the main regional institution for the preservation of all the printed, handwritten and audio-visual material related to Friulian history and literature or to the Friulian language with its contribution to the preservation and perusal of even ancient collections on digital supports with the establishment of a “Friulian Section”. Biblioteca civica “Vincenzo Joppi” promotes the production of all the Friulian-related cataloguing data it owns to be sent to other libraries with

specific, local Friulian collections with the use of digital supports offering the possibility to effectively centralise and exchange cataloguing information and procedures.” Web site: <http://www.sbhu.it/udine>

Source of the information above:

- “Proceedings of the 2nd Conference Verifying and for Proposals for the Implementation of Regional Act no. 29/2007 (Provisions on the Protection, Advancement and Promotion of the Friulian Language), Udine 1-2 December 2017).
- Archives of ARLeF-Agenzie regionâl pe lenghe furlane.

Further information:

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Udine/Udin, 27 March 2019

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[Translation from Italian by ARLeF]