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



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Fifth Report submitted by Italy

**Pursuant to Article 25, paragraph 2 of the Framework
Convention for the Protection of National Minorities –
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**FIFTH REPORT SUBMITTED BY ITALY PURSUANT TO
ARTICLE 25, PARAGRAPH 2
OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR THE
PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES**

YEAR 2019

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In order to prevent manifestations of discrimination, intolerance, racism and xenophobia, the Italian legal system provides for measures of awareness-raising at all levels of society. As you know, it is envisaged a specific form of protection through criminal law and aggravating circumstance for all crimes aimed to racial discrimination and hatred, which encompasses manifestations of thought aimed at disseminating ideas founded on superiority, racial or ethnic hatred along with incitement to commit discriminatory actions or acts of violence due to racial, ethnic or religious reasons.

The Italian Parliament, by ratifying the Istanbul Convention, has adopted in the course of the XVII legislature a number of measures to counter violence against women pursuing three strategic objectives: preventing crimes, punishing perpetrators and protection of victims. In line with this approach, the criminal code and the criminal processing code have been amended, by increasing the penalties for some crimes usually committed against women and it was drawn up the Extraordinary Action Plan against gender violence and relevant allocation of funds to support its victims.

In the current parliamentary term, the Senate confirmed the establishment of the Enquiry Committee on Femicide, while the House Judiciary Committee is now in the process of examining some proposals for legislation aimed at strengthening the judicial protection for victims of violent crimes, with particular attention to sexual offenses and domestic violence.

These initiatives aim at fully implementing the constitutional principles of equality and guaranteeing, at the same time, the respect of diversity.

Our country enhanced the protection and the promotion of the rights of the linguistic minorities also through the regional legislation by addressing these safeguards – as recommended - also in a view to support the minorities' languages and culture.

The Department of Regional Affairs and Autonomies of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, by accepting the proposal of the Technical Advisory Committee for the Protection of Historical Linguistic Minorities, allocated the necessary resources for the establishment of new Linguistic helpdesks or the continuation of their existing activities, which represent an effective contact point between citizens speaking a minority language and the Public Administration.

Despite the current economic contingency and the spending review, funds for projects involving minorities' languages continue to be allocated for supporting both activities pursuant to Law nr. 482/199 and those pursuant to Law nr. 38/2001 for the Slovenian speaking minority. The Permanent Institutional Panel on Issues concerning the Slovenian Speaking Minority in Italy, established at the Ministry of the Interior, continued its work in order to enhance cooperation activities for the protection of the Slovenian minority.

As well known, such regions as Valle d'Aosta/Vallée, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Sardinia, Trentino Alto Adige/Sudtirol are regulated by specific legislation providing for additional

funding for the support of linguistic minorities and the promotion of their languages and cultures. In this respect, the application of Law nr. 482/1999 and of Law nr. 38/2001 achieved a positive result ,although the first one, 20 years after its application, would need to be updated. This positive impact of the law is confirmed by the increased demand in the use of minority languages and gives evidence of the greater awareness of their value.

As regards the protection of Roma and Sinti communities, it would be needed a concerted action of the Member States; the Italian government is implementing the National Strategy for the Inclusion of these communities within the framework of the four pillars: housing, work, health and education, by promoting or implementing projects aiming at an effective inclusion of the mentioned communities and focusing on crucial issues as housing conditions. The main objective aims at addressing such issues not in a mere emergency perspective - that is reductive from a political and institutional standpoint - but taking into account the development of integration-oriented actions planned in a medium and long-term perspective, in view of the definition of the 2020 European Agenda.

This report will focus on the aspects of development and on the new actions undertaken and carried out over the last 5 years in line with the implementation of the Framework Convention and the Guiding lines of the Advisory Committee.

I. Practical actions put in place at national level for the implementation of the Framework Convention and aimed at increasing the involvement of the civil society and further developing the dialogue with the Advisory Committee.

The Fourth Monitoring Cycle on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the protection of national minorities offered the opportunity to the Italian Government – through a comprehensive approach and dialogue with the Advisory Committee – to confirm and enhance its commitment in a positive dialogue with all stakeholders involved in the respect of its principles and in the implementation of its recommendations.

As far as the national historical linguistic minorities are concerned, the well-known national legislation has been completed with the Law no. 482 of 15 December 1999 on “Provisions for the protection of the historical linguistic minorities”. Although it should be reviewed after 20 years from its publication, this law entailed to counterbalance/ offset the principle of national unity with the pluralism of linguistic and cultural expressions existing in Italy, thus recognizing the value to local autonomies.

In line with this approach, Law 482/99 found its place in the devolution process by assigning important tasks to local authorities. The legislative framework has been complemented with Law nr. 38 of 23 February 2001 laying down “Provisions for the protection of the Slovenian minority in Friuli Venezia Giulia”.

The results and data collected in the course of the monitoring activity have been discussed at both locally and national level in various conferences and specific meeting as envisaged by the National Strategy for the Inclusion of Roma, Sinti and Caminanti. The meetings organized by U.N.A.R. and grouped by thematic areas took place not only in an inter-ministerial but also interdisciplinary manner and involved the participation of all representatives of Roma and Sinti communities included the relevant non-government organizations.

Moreover, an important work has been done in the field of communication and dissemination of results thanks to a number of meeting – both at national and local levels – which involved social workers, volunteering associations, third sector and Roma representatives.

For a more detailed picture of UNAR activity please refer to paragraph two of the present document.

In 2018-2019 the Ministry of the Interior – through the prefectures and other territorial authorities – carried out a nationwide survey finalized to an update and follow-up of data concerning the mentioned minorities. Such monitoring activity focused on both national historical minorities, with a special attention paid to those considerably fewer in number, and on the Roma Sinti and Caminanti communities.

A synthesis of this monitoring activity is described below.

II. Measures adopted to address core issues requiring immediate action as identified in the 4th Monitoring Cycle.

By its CM/ResCMN(2017)4 Resolution, adopted on 5 July 2017, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe pointed out some recommendations according to which Italy is due to concentrate its activities in the intervention areas specified in the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

In the analytical exam of the said document, 4th Opinion on Italy, Italian authorities have been invited to improve their efforts in the implementation of actions undertaken to support citizens belonging to linguistic minorities;

After welcoming the substantial legislative framework on the historical minorities and relevant administrative activity, the document was confident in the provision of appropriate funding and in the implementation of projects aimed at developing the historical minorities' cultural heritage, taking into particular consideration those fewer in numbers, encouraging the learning of minority languages, the setting up of additional linguistic helpdesks and the dissemination of media in minority language;

The Resolution focused the recommendations on the necessity to implement a specific legislative framework , at national level, for the protection of Roma, Sinti e Caminanti communities involving their representatives in the drawing up of the legislative text and in the implementation of the RSC 2012-2020 Strategy. Efforts put in place in the past legislature aimed to define ad hoc provisions to regulate this matter were unsuccessful, despite the lively parliamentary debate.

It was also confirmed the importance of the independency of UNAR's role so as to enhance its competences as national contact.

Additional recommendations covered broader and crucial issues related to different forms of intolerance, racism, xenophobia and hate speech and on the importance- in this respect – of a correct and fundamental use of communication material and in-depth analysis of mass media in the field of equality and respect for diversity.

All papers included in the last IV Monitoring Cycle was published and disseminated also on the website of the Ministry of the Interior, in the section dedicated to the Central Directorate for civil rights, citizenship and minorities, Area IV – Historical and New Minorities

In the text more concern was expressed in respect of Roma and Sinti communities, with a special attention paid to such issues as housing and alternative solutions to their camps, education and school drop-out rate, livelihoods of women and girls which have been specifically monitored at national level, with a specific focus on the housing situation.

Such data have been summarized as follows:

LOMBARDIA

A Convention named “ 2013-2014 Project for Roma Sinti and Caminanti” was signed between the municipality of Milan and the Prefecture with a view to promote access to housing, requalification of occupied areas and employment policies.

Detailed information was provided for on the regular attendance to school of Roma, Sinti and Caminanti minors and on prevention of the school drop-out rate in the municipalities of Fagnano Olona, Cairate, Solbiate Olona, Cassano Magnago, Lonate Pozzolo, Saronno, Tradate, Gorla minore, Cislago, Gerenzan, Monza Brianza.

PIEDMONT

The Municipality of Alessandria has been included in the areas needing priority interventions as provided for by Regional Resolution no.22-7099 establishing a “Regional Panel on Roma, Sinti and Caminanti inclusion and social integration”.

The Municipality of Asti developed the projects “wild flowers and wild flowers 1” in order to defeat early school leaving by Roma pupils.

The Municipalities of Alessandria and Vercelli disseminated data regarding RSC pupils attendance at compulsory schooling. The Municipality of Vercelli has highlighted that many RSC adults are on the local Social Services and they are entitled to receive the guaranteed minimum income for social inclusion (REI).

LIGURIA

The Municipality of Genoa has developed:

- local socio pedagogical projects of educational inclusion for minors as well as paths to off-school inclusion;
- actions to foster preventative measures (family counseling, awareness raising projects about health risks associated with alcohol and drugs addiction) agreed upon by Municipality and the local Healthcare Unit (ASL);

The local Social Services took charge of families with children and elderly people.

Moreover, a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies and the Municipality has been signed in implementation of Law No.285/1997 aiming at promoting Child Rights. The Memorandum renews every three years. In the span of three years, 2017-2020, it will involve 81 schools and Roma and Sinti pupils aged between 6 and 14 years. Pre-schooling projects for children aged 3 -5 years are also envisaged.

A further project, agreed upon by the Ministry of Labor and the Municipality, named “ from camp to home”, funded by the Ministry following the flooding occurred in 2014, aims at moving families to housing projects by means of encouragements such as a two-year paid rent. Up to now, two families out of six have agreed.

Some Sinti families in La Spezia have moved to “temporary accommodations” while waiting for the granting of council houses according to local procedure while other families are already grant beneficiaries of “Ater houses”.

VENETO

The Municipality of Padua has carried out specific actions to support education and inclusion of RSC children.

Many families live mainly in council houses (they may have equal access to like all citizens) built on municipal sites or private ones.

In case of evacuation, special attention is given to vulnerable persons who have been granted temporary housing; manifold actions are carried out in order to optimize health and social services.

30 lodgings have been built on a municipal site through the project “from camp to town” financed by the Municipality and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies.

In Treviso most families live in council houses made available to them as alternative solutions to the camp.

In Castelfranco Veneto initiatives will be carried out to encourage schooling, to provide elderly people and disabled persons with vocational training and to drive them to workplaces, in cooperation with the local Healthcare Units.

The Municipality of Montebelluna has set forth three projects of social integration involving the most numerous communities, primarily aimed at minor social inclusion.

In the Municipalities of Cavarzese and Santa Maria di Sala, in the province of Venice, RSC families live in council houses or owned houses, they have a good inclusion in the social environment and useful relations with the Social Services of the local Authority.

FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA

The Municipality of Trieste has outlined the project “Habitat micro areas” in implementation of the National Strategy and carried out by the Municipality, the Local Healthcare Service and ATER (council housing).

The Municipality of Udine has taken initiatives to defeat early school leaving (cultural mediators, after-school activities, teachers on the spot and vocational training for youth under 21 years old).

The same Municipality has set up the project “Europeo Roma –net”, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, the local Healthcare Service and several ONGs, aiming at reducing the number of persons in the camps avoiding evacuations and at favouring a broad social inclusion.

In compliance with the Regional Law of 14 March 1988, the RSC communities have been allowed to buy non-development agricultural land, owned by the Municipality and set up for this purpose, to fix their own residence and install only movable houses.

In Pordenone, several families live in appropriate houses, some of them in council houses (ATER) and their social inclusion is good enough.

EMILIA ROMAGNA

The Municipality of Bologna has implemented the National Strategy by alternative solutions to camps and promoting self-financed housing (Regional Law n.14/2015) and subscribed the “National project for the Inclusion and Integration of RSC children” included in the 2014/2012 National Operational Plan (PON) “Inclusion” .

Moreover, the same Municipality has approved a local program to identify small Roma and Sinti communities in order to provide them with alternative housing solutions to camps such as temporary accommodations for vulnerable persons, regional housing projects or private houses to rent.

The Municipality of Budrio envisaged interventions to avoid early school leaving by RSC pupils on the local Social Services.

In San Lazzaro di Savena a territory-integrated team, convening monthly, has been tasked with finding housing solutions alternative to “the living in camps”; the team has eased the access to

council houses for six families. For each family health care and educational pathways have been envisaged.

In Correggio a social inclusion project has been carried out by the Social Services of the local Authority in cooperation with local voluntary organizations aiming at favouring school attendance by minors, developing in adults the knowledge of available social facilitations and the possibility to be taken on the responsibility of the Social Services of the local Authority. The project also includes the driving of adults to workplace.

In Guastalla, in 2005, a camp equipped with technologies such as water and gas supply pipelines, water purifier and electricity supply, was built as a result of the project financed by the Municipality and the Region Emilia Romagna and worked out as indicated by Opera Nomadi (a Charity active in the protection of RSC communities). Each RSC family is asked to contribute monthly with 10 euros .

By using the funds allocated by the Regional Law no.11/2015 the Municipality of Ferrara has dismantled large camps promoting the creation of micro areas; in addition, it has outlined and carried out the project Lanciodrom (started in 2002 but still ongoing) based on the four basic "Axes" (Employment, Education, Healthcare and Lodgings) as indicated in the National Strategy.

The Municipality of Faenza signed a project with the Region aiming at promoting school inclusion and finding housing solutions alternative to camps. All RSC families live in council houses or houses owned by the Church. Since 2017 the project for waste and wreckage management, named "Protocollo tra l'Unione Romagna Faentina e Consorzio Equo di Torino", financed by the Region, has been going on so as to provide employment opportunities and educational interventions; within the project 3 persons have been put on paths to employment and the attendance to school by pupils is steady (3 pupils use school-bus regularly).

The Council of the Municipality of Rimini has approved a program to find solutions alternative to the existing large camp by the allotment of equipped micro areas to 6 Italian Sinti families and of council houses to 4 families.

In Ravenna, adults are self-employed and children attend compulsory schools under the control of the local Social Services to avoid early school leaving. Most families were granted council houses between 2005 and 2011 following the dismantling of the only existing camp.

TUSCANY

The interventions implemented at regional level, both after 2014 and previously but still under way, are the following:

- during the reference period, 160 families (about 780 persons) had been granted council houses according to the local rank order;
- the implementation of the Regional Integrated Social Plan 2007/2010 has continued to be carried out as outlined in "Plan of actions aiming at finding ordinary housing solutions alternative to the living in camps for Roma and Sinti communities";
- the implementation of specific actions has continued as envisaged both by Regional Law no.2/2000 "Actions aimed at finding alternative solutions to living in camps for Roma and Sinti communities" by means of the allotment of equipped areas to live on, the renovation of existing buildings, the granting of council houses and by the Regional Integrated Health and Social Plan 2012/2015 as amended.

The provisions of the Act of the Tuscany Region Nr. 2/2000 (Actions for Roma and Sinti), which aim at finding alternatives to the camps through equipped residence areas, restoration of buildings

and use of social housing, as well as the contents of the regional Integrated Health and Social Plan 2012-2015 with following amendments, are still being enacted.

Several extraordinary programs aiming at finding housing on the free market are being experimented.

In the province of Lucca, several social housing units have been allocated, according to the Regional Act Nr. 96/1996, which enables the access to the ordinary calls for tender for the allocation of public social housing.

In particular, the following actions have been implemented in the Municipality of Lucca:

- The project “Prima la casa”, approved with the Decision of the Tuscany Region Nr. 2798/2015, by means of the allocation of 7 social housing units
- The renovation of 2 housing units in the old town for those family groups leaving the camps (Decision of the Regional Executive Nr. 752/218 and Nr. 269/2018).

Important actions of the Municipalities’ social services protecting the minors are reported (educational and school supporting services).

The Municipality of Massa Carrara started specific inclusion actions.

A project for alternative housing was started together with the Michelucci Foundation of Florence, leading either to the allocation of social housing units, or to the purchase of land for campers and caravans.

In October 2018, the Municipality submitted a new project to the Region for the school inclusion of minors aged between 6 and 16.

MARCHE

The several Roma, Sinti, Caminanti family groups staying in the Municipality of Fano (Pesaro-Urbino) are either settled in private flats or in social housing units.

ABRUZZO/MOLISE

A pluriannual project with the Caritas of Teramo Atri, named “Gli uomini si liberano insieme” has been undersigned in the Municipality of Teramo, in order to improve the integration by means of: a working group, a specific educational support both at school and at home, the activation of trainings.

LAZIO

On November 18th 2016 the Municipality of Rome approved an “Inclusion Project” aiming at finding alternatives to 6 Roma camps (with the Participation of UNAR, Lazio Region and Anci) by means of European call for tender and technical specifications.

The “Inclusion City Working Group” was approved by means of the City Council Decision Nr. 117 dd. 16/12/2016; it includes the “Working Group for the School Inclusion and the Health Conditions of Roma, Sinti and Caminanti together with the Local Health Authorities Rm1, Rm2, Rm3 and the National Institute for Health, Migration and Poverty, aiming at the socio-sanitary prevention.

The “Guidelines Plan” of Rome Capital City was approved by means of the Decision Nr. 105 dd. 16/5/2017 in order to dismantle the camps and to find alternatives as well as to implement the national Strategy. In this context, a project was drawn up in order to find alternatives to the Castel Romano village between November 2017 and December 2021.

At the same time, the National Operational Programme (NOP) Project “Città metropolitane” 2014-2020 has been activated, by starting the calls for tender, with the purpose of dismantling the camps “La barbata” and “Monachina” and of finding the relevant alternatives.

The Municipalities of Rome, Civitavecchia, Colleferro, Frascati, Guidonia, Montecello, Rocca di Papa, San Cesareo, have provided with specific information concerning the monitoring of the school attendance of Roma, Sinti, Caminanti minors; from the relevant results it can be seen, that the situation in the Municipality of Rome is differentiated: 59% of the minors regularly attend the compulsory school, while 17% don't attend it regularly and the remaining 17% don't attend it at all. In the other Municipalities, school attendance proves to be regular.

CAMPANIA

In Naples, a Convention has been undersigned between Municipality and Prefecture for the implementation of a reception center for 450 people (total amount of Euro 10.400.000,00).

In the Municipality of Giugliano, a preschool project is active among the Municipality, parish churches and competent associations for 50 Roma children aged between 5 and 10 years. Moreover, an eco- village within the Municipality is due to be implemented, with 44 living modules, services and inclusion projects (Regional Funds: Euro 900.000 and Ministry of the Interior : Euro 700.000).

A local action plan was then adopted (G.D. 342/2016) with the purpose of singling out intervention and development guidelines of the local politics in favour of the Roma community.

In the Municipality of Salerno, several local projects are active, aiming at the protection of the camps' sanitary conditions, at the integration in school and labour market and at the access to public services and to health assistance.

APULIA

The Municipality of Bari has approved a local action plan for the social inclusion of Roma, Sinti and Caminanti by means of DG 718/2017. An experimental National project is also taking place in the territory of the above mentioned Municipality. The abovementioned project (between Ministry of Labour, Ministry for Education, University and Research and Istituto degli Innocenti in Florence) aims at countering the school dropout and is currently being experimented in two nomad camps. In Barletta, a town camp has been set up on a ground which was confiscated from the organized crime (D.G. 236/2015); it has been structured in 3 living modules, which were formally assigned by the Municipality and equipped with services and utilities. In the same Municipality, minors are monitored by the competent Court thanks to a specific support guardian.

SARDINIA

The Municipality of Sassari applies

- An Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration project by means of the funds of the Ministry of Interior and the cooperation by IOM (International Organization for Migration).
- The search for housing solutions as alternatives to the camps on the territory.

The Municipality of Olbia, as far as the school attendance of minors is concerned, reports, with reference to the primary school and the first-grade secondary school, a 90% percentage, and with reference to the second-grade secondary school a 5% percentage. School bus, social, sport and cultural assistance are ensured.

A Protocol with the Local Health Authority Olbia 2 has been undersigned for health controls (vaccinations and infection preventions); moreover the “Romani” project is active; it deals with the social and work inclusion and is funded through P.O.R. Sardinia (10 nomads are integrated into respective work activities).

The dismantling of the relevant camp on the territory is due to take place, together with the search for alternative mid-term and definitive solutions (such as repairing countryside ruins, mobile homes on owned land, and so on). In 2018, 2 family groups left the camp (they were settled on owned land through mobile home). In the near future 9 family groups are due to leave the camp, (7 family groups are due to settle on owned land through mobile home, 2 in flats).

In the Municipality of Alghero, the Roma, Sinti and Caminanti minors are monitored by the town social services. Schooling is ensured.

Between January 2015 (date of dismantling of the previous nomad camp) and February 2017, through funding by the Region of Sardinia, 11 projects were started, concerning either the housing inclusion or the inclusion alternative to the camp (caravan, camper). Moreover, an awareness-raising activity is ongoing, related to the mutual understanding in the new housing contexts.

In the Municipality of Porto Torres, Roma, Sinti and Caminanti minors are monitored by the town social services. Schooling as well as a school bus service are ensured.

The current settlement is due to be dismantled and alternative solutions are due to be found thanks to a project as well as funding by the Sardinia Region, in order to find alternative housing solutions (in this context, delegates of the nomad communities are due to be involved).

In the Municipality of Oristano several Roma, Sinti, Caminanti family groups benefit from the Social Inclusion Income as well as from the Support to the Active Inclusion. Minors regularly attend school. An educational project in favour of a disabled minor has been started.

Several family groups are supported by the Social services in the allocation procedures of social housing.

As is well known the activity of UNAR is fundamental as regards the protection of New Minorities; UNAR is the national contact point for the implementing procedures for the Strategy of inclusion of Roma, Sinti and Caminanti (2012-2020).

In this capacity, UNAR encourages the participation of the Public Administrations that have an interest in carrying out the objectives of the strategy for the inclusion of roma, sinti and caminanti (2012-2020) as well as the participation of associations active in countering discrimination particularly those affecting RSC.

For this reason UNAR issued an invitation to tender aimed at Associations and bodies envisaged by articles 6 of Legislative Decree No. 215 of 9th July 2003 available at <http://www.unar.it/unar/portal/?p=7382>

As is known the European Commission periodically organizes meetings with the National Roma Contact Points of Member Countries. The objective of these meetings is providing information on the implementation States of the National Strategies. In addition the European Commission

promotes initiatives and best practices in order to achieve the objectives defined in the community framework.

In this context, UNAR is the technical responsible body for the coordination of action envisaged by the Strategy through a constant synergic relationship with central, regional and local Administrations as well as with the civil society.

In particular, such activity is substantiated through the periodic summoning of national interministerial tables on the basis of the four envisaged axes (Health, Education, Labour, Housing) and thematic working groups (on legal status and statistical data) as well as through the promotion and monitoring of regional tables and local inclusion plans (PAL) for the integration of RSC communities. At international level, UNAR participates in the activities of the European Commission and the Council of Europe.

During 2015 the European Commission published the third evaluation report on the National Strategies of the Member Countries. The main positive developments indicated by the Commission with regard to Italy referred to the programming relating to the 2014-2020 funding cycle and to how the National Strategy positively influenced the process of defining priorities. In other words: thanks to the Strategy and the work of UNAR, finally, according to the Commission, European funds were allocated explicitly dedicated to the implementation of the Strategy through a dedicated Thematic Objective (OT) which explicitly provides for the "Increase in education , of the health conditions and of the social and work participation of the Roma, Sinti and Caminanti populations, in connection with the National Strategy of Roma inclusion "with total resources of around € 14m. Through a comparison between the regional realities and the intermediate bodies it was possible to insert this objective not only in the National Plans of the PON Inclusion and the PON Metro (Metropolitan Cities), but also among the same actions of some Regional Operational Plans. The European Commission annually requests UNAR, as NCP, to send the Annual Report on the implementation of the National RSC Strategy. UNAR involves the central and local administrations as well as the stakeholders interested in specific topics, also through consultations and sharing materials and information.

UNAR participates as an Italian member in CAHROM (Ad Hoc Committee of Experts on Rome Issue) which is an ad hoc committee of experts established by the Committee of Ministers under Article 17 of the Statute of the Council of Europe and in agreement with the Resolution CM / RES (2011) 24 on intergovernmental committees. Specifically, the Committee deals with studies, research and evaluations on the policies and practices adopted by the Member States of the Council for the integration issues of Roma communities. Among the main tasks, in addition to the collection, systematization, dissemination and promotion of best practices considered in line with the Council standards, there is that of elaborating opinions and recommendations to be submitted to the Committee of Ministers.

The activities are organized as follows: through two plenary meetings on an annual basis and a series of thematic visits made to each Member State on the basis of specific requests by the Committee or upon request of the State itself. Representatives of the Member States (two in each State) from the National Contact Points for the coordination and implementation of the National Roma Integration Strategies (NRS) or from the Ministries that have competence in the field

participate in the activities of the Committee together with permanent representatives (as observers) chosen from civil society and the most relevant international institutions (European Commission, OSCE, UNHCR, FRA, etc.).

More recently (2018), it appeared appropriate to deal in a synergic way with the local actors on issues related to the Axis Housing of the National Inclusion Strategy of Roma, Sinti and Caminanti. One of the objectives of this new meeting, which took place on November 27, 2018 and involved about 20 representatives of the regions and of the main metropolitan cities, was the analysis of the various proposals, critical issues and best practices that will emerge from the dialogue between the regional and municipal levels. The search for collaboration between the different levels of government with shared objectives, where possible, has allowed not only to obtain a coherent and updated picture of the current situation, but also to plan and adopt measures in line with the National Inclusion Strategy. During the works, before the discussion that involved all the participants, some elements of the research on settlements already mentioned were presented and a focus will be given to the community financial resources specifically dedicated to the inclusion of the RSC.

UNAR and MIUR in recent years have held several bilateral meetings for the planning of initiatives in the framework of the Strategy, the discussion of cases and critical issues related to RSC minors, the methods of sharing with NGOs and communities, of tools and financial opportunities for promoting school inclusion of RSCs. These meetings could rely on an institutional table of comparison within the National Observatory for the integration of foreign students and for the Interculture. In the last months, the MIUR has published notices (both through the PON School and with national or regional funds) aimed at schools at risk of school dropout dispersion, which are reported to NGOs to encourage participation and the creation of networks with schools. In 2019, in the context of the PON INCLUSION (of Axis 3 "Systems and models of social intervention", Investment Priorities 9.ii - "Socio-economic integration of marginalized communities such as the Roma", Specific objective 9.5 - "Reduction of extreme marginality and inclusion interventions in favor of homeless people and Roma, Sinti and Caminanti populations") a collaboration agreement was concluded between UNAR and INMP (National Institute for the Promotion of the Health of Migrant Populations) for the design and construction of an activity aimed at fostering the development of knowledge and skills on the part of local health authorities, for the implementation of the RSC health action plan, in order to make access to care as equal as possible.

The activities that will be specifically carried out aim to achieve the following objectives:

1. develop digital information tools for health service orientation as well as health education materials in order to facilitate access by categories that are difficult to reach through traditional methods;
2. broaden the use of RSC cross-cultural mediators in healthcare;
3. spread the Public Health Proximity model (SPP), with particular reference to the RSC populations;
4. develop and promote the drafting of local protocols for the implementation and dissemination of the RSC Health Action Plan. To carry out the project - the total value of which is € 950.481,00 - the territorial Health Authorities located in the urban areas affected by the PON Metropolitan City 2014-2020 will be involved.

The areas of intervention both nationally and locally will be divided into the following macro activities:

- a) An action research aiming at the implementation of a mapping of public territorial health services and private social services, with particular reference to those with direct access. At national level this will be done through the creation of a virtual space for the collection of all health education materials, produced at national level on specific topics.

These materials will be shared through a platform specifically created and made available, subject to accreditation on the platform itself. Moreover, digital tools will be developed for the realization of geo-referenced maps including all the social-health services made available by both public institutions and private social organizations. Furthermore, at local level, qualitative / quantitative surveys on social and health needs, health status (e.g. vaccinations), access to health and social services (presence of juridical-legal, economic, bureaucratic-administrative and organizational barriers), the usability of the services (presence of linguistic-cultural barriers) and the available resources in terms of social capital and social and health networks already operating in the area.

- b) The development and dissemination of information tools to convey the mapping of health services developed in the context of this project. These tools will have to be promoted and disseminated through social and health networks with the support and collaboration of cross-cultural RSC mediators and other stakeholders, such as representatives of the National Platform (see below) and the RSC Community Forum, together with digital publication and hard copy of the Health RSC Health Action Plan.

- b) The development and dissemination of information tools to convey the mapping of health services developed in the context of this project. These tools will have to be promoted and disseminated through social and health networks with the support and collaboration of cross-cultural RSC mediators and other stakeholders, such as representatives of the National Platform (see below) and the RSC Community Forum, together with digital publication and hard copy of the RSC Health Action Plan of the Ministry of Health.

- b) The elaboration of two training models with the support and collaboration of experts, operators, RSC facilitators and other stakeholders (such as representatives of the National Platform and the Forum of the RSC communities). The first model will be aimed at testing a theoretical-practical training course for cross-cultural mediators in the social-health field, to be used in the actions envisaged by local implementation protocols, with particular reference to health prevention within formal and informal settlements and areas at risk of social marginality and exclusion, or in the context of services. The elaboration of the second training model is intended for socio-sanitary personnel, concretely or potentially engaged in offering services that involve the health issues of the RSC communities. The courses will be organized at national level by the INMP and at the local level by the individual Local Health Authorities involved, and will be addressed to the staff of the local and hospital services, general practitioners and family paediatricians.

The training sessions must be included in the annual ECM (Medical Continuous Educational) accredited refresher courses as well as updates on health interventions for migrant populations with specific focus for some professional categories, such as: health and other personnel in urgent services (first aid); health and other personnel in direct access services (clinics, vaccination services, surgeries for foreigners, where present); Staff of the Single Access Points (PUA). The training activities must include meetings with the networks of local services and be an opportunity for discussion and exchange with stakeholders. Such models can thus contribute to the creation of

networks of social and health mediators and operators with specific expertise on issues related to the health of the RSC communities.

During the work of the inter-ministerial working group on 8 April 2016, the need emerged to strengthen monitoring and data collection on RSC populations. To meet this need, two in-depth meetings were held at the UNAR with ISTAT, ANCI, the Ministry of the Interior and the Fundamental Right Agency (24 May 2016 and 1 July 2016) and a preliminary meeting was held with ISTAT on 24 May 2016.

Regarding the criticality linked to the issue of civil society participation in the integration process of the RSC community, UNAR has prepared the creation of an operative instrument of dialogue with the RSC and sector associations and the central and local public administrations involved in the Strategy. In application of what the European Commission requested to facilitate the participatory process of the communities in each Member State, the National RSC Platform was launched, publicly announced during 2016 at national and international level.

The National Roma, Sinti, Caminanti Platform - a national branch of the European Roma Platform, promoted by the European Commission - is an operational instrument of dialogue between UNAR, the RSC Associations and the sector association, the central and local public administrations involved in the National Strategy Inclusion of the RSC. The Platform was established in 2017 following an expression of interest with the admission of 79 associations from all over the national territory. The objectives of the Platform are:

- facilitate and formalize the dialogue and cooperation between institutions and the RSC / sector association movement, as well as between the various Associations within them, in order to boost the aforementioned Strategy;
- provide training support on topics of recognized interest, also for the purpose of developing project proposals useful in the planning of national and European funds;
- to promote the establishment of networks and federations and of the RSC Community Forum which will be the central nucleus of the Platform (the Forum is foreseen by the Strategy "with interface functions, relationship and consultation with the NCP, the National Tables, both with respect to the implementation of the Strategy and with regard to its periodic review and evaluation ", See RSC National Strategy, p. 34 Par 2.3.2)

The Forum is made up by 25 NGOs that in the manifestation of interest have self-declared to be predominantly composed of RSC people and to express a common position on some relevant issues to be put to the competent institutions (e.g. knowledge of the history of Roma / Sinti in the field of public education, the definition of anti-Gypsyism, correct names to propose, focus on housing issues / overcoming camps, etc.).

The Platform started with a side-event promoted by UNAR in collaboration with the European Commission and the Council of Europe in Rome at the end of 2016. The event was attended by 25 young representatives of the RSC community who stood out for a pathway of independent and significant studies and / or work. The activities of 2017 included the creation of three plenary meetings, one meeting dedicated to the RSC Forum and a side-event organized on the sidelines of an on-line antitsiganism and hate speech training promoted by UNAR in collaboration with the Council of Europe.

During a plenary meeting on 19 September 2017, with a vote involving 60 NGOs, the delegates of the RSC National Platform were formally designated and it was decided to set up thematic study

groups to accompany the work of the delegates appointed by the Platform within the Tables and Working Groups. The purpose of this process is specifically to bring out the proposals and critical issues to be put to the competent administrations in the framework of the Tables and of the Monitoring Committees, to define the priorities, also in the context of scholastic and social integration of the RSC minors.

Representatives of the RSC associations have already taken part in the meetings of the National Roma Contact Points and of the European Roma Platform after having been designated by the other members and together with the UNAR representatives. Regarding the Monitoring Committee of the PON Inclusion, a delegate designated by the Platform - chaired by the General Director of the National Anti-Racial Discrimination Office - took part in the last CdS of April 23, 2018. Likewise, the Managing Authority of the NOP Rete Rurale requested the participation of members of Roma and Sinti associations. The involvement of the delegates designated for participation in the National Tables (Work, Health, Education, Housing) envisaged by the Strategy is in the start-up phase, while at the local level (municipal and regional) there are different methods of involvement and dialogue with RSC persons.

In 2018 two Platform plenary events were organized, one on 11-12 April and the other on 15-16 May, on the occasion of the anniversary of the Roma and Sinti rebellion in the Auschwitz Zigeunerlager - with a moment of remembrance and deepening on the subject of deportations and internment of Roma and Sinti. In particular, on the impulse of the Platform and the Forum, a project was launched dedicated to the memory of the Porrajmos (a word in the Romanes language that indicates the extermination of Roma and Sinti during the Second World War) which took the form of a "journey of memory" which traces the most significant moments related to Porrajmos. Note the first two "stages" of this journey:

- the participation of the 25 delegates of the RSC Forum in the journey to Auschwitz and the official ceremony at the Quirinale in the presence of the President of the Republic in January 2018
- the journey to Agnone (Isernia) at the place of detention of Roma and Sinti during the Second World War which was attended by around 100 delegates in May.

Law nr. 482 of 15 December 1999, as well known, under Art. 6 of the Constitution, is aimed at protecting the 12 historical linguistic minorities recognized in the national territory (Catalan, Ladin, Greek, Germanic, Croatian, Sardinian, Occitan, Franco-Provençal, French, Albanian, Slovenian and Friulian). The Department of Regional Affairs and Autonomies ensures by annual plans the financing of projects submitted by public administrations and local authorities pursuant to Articles 9 and 15 of the mentioned Law. The allocation procedures are set out in the relevant implementing Regulation (Presidential Decree nr. 345 of 2 May 2001, Art. 8).

For the granting of funding, local authorities, territorially competent for the defined areas, submit the projects – through the Region - to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers (with the exception of the public administrations submitting directly to Department of Regional Affairs) on the following issues: linguistic helpdesks, training, toponymy and cultural activities.

As regards the amount of resources available, it should be noted that – on a pluriannual basis - sums allocated for actions envisaged by Law 482/99, it has been reduced in comparison to the previous one. Nonetheless, since 2017 it is being registered a significant increase of amounts allocated reaching approximately 55% compared to 2016 along with a valuable improvement in speeding up the transfer procedures for the funds pursuant to Law 482/99.

Law nr. 205/17 of 27 December 2017, (Stability Law for 2018) established an initial allocation amounting to € 2.940.596 to be used for financing projects envisaged by articles 9 and 15 of Law 482/99. A 3% of this sum, amounting to € 88.218, has been set aside for the public administrations. Consequently the overall amount for funding projects submitted by the territorial and local authorities amounted to € 2.852.378.

The Technical Advisory Committee (pursuant to Article 12 of the Presidential Decree n. 345/2001) described the criteria for the distribution of funds allocated for 2018 highlighting two priority parameters, that is to say, the number of municipalities concerned and a performance index calculated using a math formula based on qualitative parameters.

As concerns funds allocated for 2019, the estimated budget of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers approved by Prime Ministerial Decree (DPCM) of 19 December 2018, allocated €3.067.787 for financing projects envisaged by articles 9 and 15 of Law 482/99 and, as it happened in the previous years, 3% of the mentioned sum (amounting to € 92.034) has been set aside for the public administrations. Consequently the overall amount for funding projects submitted by the territorial and local authorities amounted to € 2.975.753.

The distribution criteria envisaged the possibility for the public administrations to submit projects for setting up linguistic helpdesks for citizens speaking minority languages and the implementation of protected minority languages courses for civil servants.

It should be specified that, the mentioned DPCM's legislative procedure is ongoing and therefore the distribution of funds reported in the table below – which is contained in the DARA Circular nr. 628 of 11 January 2019, concerning the Guidelines for territorial and local authorities on funding applications – could be modified:

FUNDS FOR PROJECTS ALLOCATED TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES INCLUDED FUNDS TO FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA AND SARDINIA REGIONS					
Languages and allocated amounts		Actions and resources assigned to each action			
		Linguistic Helpdesks	Training	Cultural activities	Toponymy
Albanese	199.941	149.956	19.994	19.994	9.997
Croatian	56.658	42.494	5.666	5.666	2.832
French	152.835	114.626	15.283	15.283	7.643
Franco-provençal	346.973	260.229	34.697	34.697	17.330
Friulian	17.081	12.810	1.708	1.708	855
Germanic Language	180.955	135.717	18.096	18.096	9.046
Greek	136.051	102.038	13.605	13.605	6.803
Ladin	190.597	142.948	19.060	19.060	9.529
Occitan	325.279	243.960	32.528	32.528	16.263

Friulian FVG	431.395	As determined by the Region	As determined by the Region	As determined by the Region	As determined by the Region
Germanic FVG	23.598	As determined by the Region	As determined by the Region	As determined by the Region	As determined by the Region
Slovenian FVG	155.513	As determined by the Region	As determined by the Region	As determined by the Region	As determined by the Region
Catalonian SAR	33.656	As determined by the Region	As determined by the Region	As determined by the Region	As determined by the Region
Sardinian SAR	725.221	As determined by the Region	As determined by the Region	As determined by the Region	As determined by the Region
Sub total FVG	610.506				
Sub total SAR	758.877				
Overall amount	2.975.753				

As indicated above, among the highlighted priorities, there is the urgent need to strengthen the protection of the minorities fewer in numbers compared to larger minorities which enjoy greater protection. In the present situation characterized by the ongoing review of the protection and guarantees of minority communities, and taking also into account the ongoing debate on the need to update the provisions of Law nr. 482/99 after 20 years since its approval, prefectures – in cooperation with the local authorities, have carried out a monitoring survey on the implementation of the mentioned law throughout the national territory.

The monitoring activity, in addition to the collection of statistical data, focused specifically on the number of actions and initiatives dedicated to minority communities in the following issues: use and teaching of minority language in carrying out educational and training activities in schools at all level of education; oral and written use of minority languages in public offices and in municipalities where the language is under protection and before the judicial authorities and in the municipal councils; radio and TV broadcasts of programs in minority language both on public and private channels, along with the provision of state and regional funds to minority language newspapers, specifying their publishers; toponymy; cooperation in the EU programs.

Results of the monitoring activities are listed below:

MONITORING ACTIVITY FOR THE PROTECTION OF HISTORICAL AND LINGUISTIC MINORITIES IN ITALY, INCLUDED MINORITIES FEWER IN NUMBER.

2019

VAL d'AOSTA / VALLEE d'AOSTE REGION



French, Franco-Provençal, German languages and Walser Germanic idiom

Val d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste region, a special administrative area, recognizes the bilingualism of its population, as Italian and French languages are treated as equivalent, and at the same time ensures the protection of the culture and language of the Walser community residing in Valle del Lys along with the French-speaking community using the Franco-Provençal language. French language is widespread among residents and is studied in all types and level of schools.

The knowledge of French is an essential requisite to be employed in the regional offices where, in all cases, bilingualism is ensured. In the collegiate bodies of municipalities in the Val d'Aosta it is allowed also the use of Franco-Provençal language. Radio and TV programs are broadcast in French, German and its language variants, i.e. Titsch and Toitschu.

Toponymy of the region's municipalities is exclusively francophone, except for the town of Aosta, where bilingualism is present in toponymy. In addition to French it is possible to write names also in Franco-Provençal and other minority variants.

Italy/France and Italy/Switzerland cross-border cooperation programs are in place.

In the territory of the upper Val de Lys (Issime, Gressoney- Saint Jean and Gressoney-La Trinité) the teaching of German language in schools is ensured and various projects dealing also with Walser language and culture (Titsch and Toitschu) are underway.

In addition to Italian and French, documents may be drawn up also in German language.

Radio and TV programs are broadcast in French and German and also in its variants (Titsch and Toitschu)

Over the last years there is an increasing interest of the municipalities in the Walsen territory in adding names in Titsch e Toitschu in street signs.

As regards Walsen idioms it is worth noting the CAPCities Project, a EU territorial cooperation program for the period 2007-2013, named "Spazio Alpino" for the implementation of which the

Region selected the Walsen Mountain community- Upper Val de Lys as pilot area because of the peculiarity of its habitat, the organization of its villages and parts that are similar to ones existing in Alpine valleys of German Switzerland and Southern Germany. This model represents a peculiar example of widespread urbanization that, once promoted, can increase the attraction of the mountain valleys.

PIEMONTE REGION



Occitan language and Walser Germanic idiom

In the territory of Upper Valsesia (VC) encompassing the municipalities of Alagna, Riva Valdobbia, Rimella, Alto Sermenza, reside communities whose inhabitants are descended from ancient Walser settlers of the Mount Rosa. These local authorities are provided with linguistic helpdesks.

In Alagna municipality a private association financed a minority language course dedicated to primary school students. The local cultural associations are responsible for organizing the publication of newspapers in Walser language.

Walser language is used in urban toponymy.

The mountain Union Valle Maira (CN) is a territory where Occitan language is spoken due to its slow diffusion into the Piedmont language over the last 50 years. In this valley Occitan language is not taught at schools, it is present in varied cultural activities. In the public offices Occitan is ensured in oral form. A monthly magazine in Occitan language is published.

Valle Maira has been a pioneer in the use and promotion of Occitan toponymy: bilingual toponymy is available everywhere.

The Mountain Union Valle Varaita (CN) is an Occitan territory as well. Educational projects are in place aimed to promote the knowledge of Occitan language and culture through handicraft activities.

In public offices Occitan is ensured in oral form.

The territory does not provide for TV broadcasts in Occitan but only for some radio programs.

Bilingual toponymy is available.

The Mountain Union Monviso (CN) is another Occitan territory where the language is used orally in all public offices.

Then Mountain Union Valle Stura (CN) is also an Occitan territory. In pre-schools and kindergartens are set up bilingual theatrical laboratories.

Public offices are provided with linguistic helpdesks and Occitan is spoken by the civil servants.

Bilingual toponymy is available.

VENETO REGION



Cimbrian and Ladin Languages

A Cimbrian-speaking minority is present in Selva di Progno municipality and in the former XIII Cimbrian municipalities of Verona (VR)*. The minority language is neither used nor taught in schools, but a series of theatrical projects and music events have been organized for primary school students. **It deals with the 8 municipalities in the province of Verona (Erbezzo, Boscochiesanuova, Cerro, Velo veronese, Roveré veronese, San Mauro, Badia Calavena, Selva di Progno) of the 13 original Cimbrian-speaking communities (Erbezzo, Boscochiesanuova, Cerro, Valdiporto, Velo, Roveré, Saline, Tavernole, Sprea cum Progno, Azzarino, Camposilvano, San Bartolomeo, Selva).*

The Cimbrian Institute of Luserna (TN) promoted a TV newscast (on Vicenza TV channel) dedicated to Cimbrian municipalities of Verona.

The minority language is present in toponymy and research on Cimbrian culture is carried out and published on multimedia magazines and websites.

A Cimbrian-speaking community resides in the territory of Asiago – Altopiano of 7 municipalities (VI). The minority language is not used in public offices but 2 linguistic helpdesks are set up in the Mountain Union and in the Institute of Cimbrian culture. There are neither radio/TV

broadcasts nor publications in Cimbrian language except for a periodical dealing with information and news on the main events of interest for the Cimbrian community.

Toponymy is bilingual and most of residents have a Cimbrian patronymic and family name.

Cooperation activities under EU programs are not reported, but initiatives are in place with other Cimbrian communities located in Northern Italy, Austria and Bavaria.

Ladinian communities are present in the municipalities of Anpezo/Cortina d'Ampezzo (BL) and in Col/Colle Santa Lucia (BL); notably, Cortina municipality is carrying out educational and school activities targeted to the promotion of the Ladinian historical, cultural, linguistic and cultural heritage.

The city Councils are provided with linguistic helpdesks and their civil servants are able to communicate both in written and oral Ladin.

The territory is provided with local radio stations broadcasting programs in Ladinian, one newscast (RAI Ladinia) and one newspaper (both printed and digital).

Bilingual toponymy is available.

A Ladinian community is present in the municipality of Fodom/Livillalongo of Col di Lana (BL) where since many years the minority language is taught in primary school. In municipal offices civil servants are able to communicate both in written and oral Ladin.

The territory is provided with local radio stations broadcasting programs in Ladinian, one newscast (RAI Ladinia) and one newspaper (both printed and digital).

Toponymy is bilingual.

TRENTINO REGION



Ladinian, Mocheno and Cimbrian languages

In the territory of the autonomous province of Trento reside Ladinian, Mocheno and Cimbrian speaking communities. In 2017 the Province launched projects aimed to provide for teaching aids and educational packages for teachers using the minority languages. Since 2012 the territory is

provided with linguistic helpdesks, TV and radio broadcasts and toponymy in the minority languages.

The Province joined the Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity (NPLD) dealing with issues such as politics and linguistic planning, in synergic work with the EU bodies.

CAMPANIA REGION



Arbereshe Languages

The only Italian-Albanian community present in Campania Region resides in the municipal territory of Comune dei Greci (AV). They are named Arbereshe and maintain close relations with the mother country.

The Municipality provides for Arbereshe language courses with a final exam taking place when students graduate from junior high school.

Due to the high presence of Arbereshe people, in public offices civil servants are able to speak the minority language.

Toponymy is bilingual.

CALABRIA - PUGLIA - BASILICATA / LUCANIA

CALABRIA REGION



Arbereshe Language

In the municipality of Firmo/Fermes (CS) the Arbereshe language is not taught in educational institutions or schools but many young people and children can speak it perfectly well.

In public offices civil servants are able to speak the minority language.

There are not TV/Radio broadcasts but the territory provides for toponymy in Arbereshe.

Cooperation activities with Albania are reported. Cooperation with EU not in place.

In the municipality of Mongrassano (CS) provides for Arbereshe language courses although the low rate of Arbereshe speaking persons and joined projects on toponymy promoted by the province and university.

The municipality is provided with a linguistic helpdesk.

In the municipality of Vaccarizzo Albanese/Vakaricit (CS) public offices Arbereshe language is orally used. Toponymy is to be completed.

In the municipality of Carfizzi (KR) Arbereshe language is being taught in primary school and one linguistic helpdesk is available on the territory.

In the municipality of Pallagorio (KR) 90% of population use oral Arbereshe language that is not included in educational programs. In public offices and in the framework of EU projects the minority language is orally used. One linguistic helpdesk is available.

In the municipality of San Nicola dell'Alto (KR) all residents speak Arbereshe and schooling system includes minority language educational projects. Public offices are provided with linguistic helpdesks and Arbereshe is spoken. Toponymy is bilingual.

The Municipality is working for the reception of the Albanian TV(Shqiptar).

In the municipality of Maida (CZ) the use of Arbereshe is being steadily increasing in the last years and to date almost 83% of locals can speak this language. Language courses are not included in school system but thanks to local associations, sponsored by the Municipality, after-school courses of Arbereshe language are available for children 6 to 11 years of age.

Officials at registry offices use the minority language.

Bilingual toponymy is available for streets, monuments and historical buildings.

In the municipality of Caraffa (CZ) educational programs and ethno-cultural festivals are included in the primary school year. A linguistic helpdesk is available as well as bilingual toponymy.

In the municipality of Andali (CZ) the teaching of Arbereshe language is ensured through projects targeted for students of primary school and junior high school.

The minority language is not used in public offices but a municipal bilingual website is in progress.

Bilingual toponymy is available and the Municipality joined the EU programs aimed to the protection of the language.

APULIA REGION



Arbereshe language

In the Municipality of San Marzano di San Giuseppe, in province of Taranto, the use and the teaching of the minority language is guaranteed during school lessons and off-school activities.

The presence of in-house personnel speaking the minority language Arbereshe in the offices in the whole regional territory is ensured.

Only some programmes in Arbereshe are web-streamed, while no TV and radio broadcasts in Arbereshe are provided.

Bilingual toponymy is ensured in the whole municipal area.

The European project named “Euronetlang” for cooperation and exchanges between different language minorities has been developed. Linguistic, religious and cultural exchanges with Albania are underway.

Griko Language

The Municipality of Soleto (LE) is part of the Greek-speaking area in Salento. A griko-culture laboratory is available for an in-depth study on issues connected to griko old songs, customs and traditions of ancient farmers and countryside.

The Municipality, along with the Region and Administrations, funded and implemented several projects aimed to the protection and promotion of griko-language and culture.

As regards the toponymy, 2 thematic volumes have been published containing reports and information gathered directly from the locals, transcribed and geo located in the map of the Military Geographic Institute (IGM).

BASILICATA/LUCANIA

In the municipality of San Paolo Albanese (PZ) the use of Arbereshe language is ensured in public offices.

Toponymy is available in both Italian and minority languages.

In the municipality of San Costantino Albanese (PZ) most locals speak Arbereshe although, at present, the language is not taught at schools and institutes. Song and folk music activities are carried out.

Bilingual toponymy is available.

In the municipality of Maschito (PZ) take place Folk festivals in Arbereshe.

In the municipality of Ginestra (PZ) take place Folk festivals in Arbereshe.

In public offices the use of Arbereshe is ensured by the officials.

Bilingual toponymy is available.

As far as the Slovenian speaking minority is concerned, the Permanent Institutional Panel on Issues concerning the Slovenian Speaking Minority in Italy, established by decree of the Minister of Interior dated 4 July 2012, continued its in-depth study on issues concerning the implementation of Law no.38/2001 and concerning general issues related to the protection of minorities which has been guaranteed and enhanced over the years, as highlighted in the previous report. The Panel is convened to discuss issues concerning the implementation of Law no. 38/2001 and it had positive results for the minority itself. Representatives of the Joint Institutional

Committee for the Slovenian Minority, of the Slovenian Cultural Economic Union and of the Confederation of Slovenian Minorities also take part in the meetings in the position of permanent members. The operational branch of the Panel is at the Prefecture of Trieste.

According to art. 3 of Law no.38/2001, the activity of the Joint Institutional Committee for the Slovenian Minority is ruled by the Regulation issued by the decree of the President of the Italian Republic dated 27 February 2002, no.65; during the meeting held on 28 February 2019, the Committee highlighted the necessity of reviewing its functioning as regards the members' term of office and absences, the role of the Secretary, the presentation of documents also in Italian and the organization of working groups. Therefore appropriate additions and changes have been made to the functioning of the Committee.

III Information, article by article, on the relevant developments concerning the Monitoring Cycle. Further recommendations on the actions undertaken in the Fourth Monitoring Cycle.

Article 1

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

The protection of human rights has been a fundamental principle of the Italian legislation, since as early as the 1948 Constitution.

As is well known, Italy not only ensured a specific protection to the minorities living on its territory, through the ratification of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, by means of law No. 302 of 28th August 1997, but it also became party to the major treaties concerning the respect of human rights (as far as this specific topic is concerned, it is worth stressing that Italy signed the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination – CERD).

In this perspective, Italy participates in OSCE and its organisations, including ODIHR – Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

In the year 2000 Italy signed the European Charter of Regional or Minority languages. The ratification of the Charter is at present being discussed at the Senate. As of today 33 Council of Europe member Countries have become parties to the Charter, whose objective is promoting and protecting the cultural traditions of European minority languages.

On 29th September 2015 Italy ratified the UN Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness done in New York on 30th August 1961, which entered into force in Italy on 13th October 2015.

Article 2

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

Italy continues to attach great importance to good neighbourly relations and to transfrontier cooperation. More specifically, such ties are related to Slovenia, Austria, Croatia, France, Greece and Albania. This brings about a strengthening of relations and ties in terms of culture, society, language, political life, economy, friendship and cooperation among States.

There have been numerous meetings between Italian and Slovenian authorities.

It is useful stressing that relations between Italy on the one hand and Croatia and Slovenia on the other have been developed and favoured also by a regulatory framework that progressively adjusted to the needs of the parties involved. The Italian autochthonous minority, which in the past belonged as a whole to the Republic of Yugoslavia, is now divided among Slovenia and Croatia, two Countries with very differing situations.

Article 3

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

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

The Italian Constitution, particularly its articles 2 and 3, envisages the development of all social groupings in which human personality takes shape, including for members of language minorities, thereby ensuring the implementation of the rights protected by the Framework Convention. These minorities deserve protection as they qualify as social groupings as envisaged by the above mentioned art. 2 of the Constitution, on the basis of the principle of substantive equality (art. 3 paragraph 2 of the Constitution) as well as in that they are linguistic minorities as envisaged by art. 6 of the Constitution.

This was the inspiring principle of Laws Nos. 482/1999 and 38/2001, which both meets the actual needs of persons belonging to minority groups identified on the basis of the respective territories where the communities to be protected live.

As mentioned in the previous Report, since the entry into force of Law 482/1999, the Ministry of the Interior has provided for the drawing up of a list of municipalities belonging to the various minorities, which is periodically updated with the inclusion of communities applying for protection as envisaged by the above mentioned law.

As far as the criteria and the difficulties relating the general **census** of the population are concerned, reference is made to the content of the Third and Fourth Reports stressing in particular the following: the peremptory prohibition to collect data that can lead to identify one's racial or ethnic origin; the compulsory need to require the written consent of the respondent and to obtain the authorization of the Data Protection Authority, as well as the authorization envisaged by art. 22, paragraphs 3 and 3 bis of Law No. 675/1996 on the dissemination of sensitive data by public actors.

The implementation of the agreement between ISTAT and ANCI with the support of UNAR for a sector survey on Roma, Sinti and Caminanti (mentioned in the previous Report) carried out experimentally and by sample made it possible to obtain important results in terms of data collection and survey methodology.

The relevant data are retrievable on the site of ISTAT at the following link:

<https://www.istat.it/it/archivio/196456>

Article 4

1. The Parties undertake to guarantee to persons belonging to national minorities the right of equality before the law and of equal protection of the law. In this respect, any discrimination based on belonging to a national minority shall be prohibited.

2. The Parties undertake to adopt, where necessary, adequate measures in order to promote, in all areas of economic, social, political and cultural life, full and effective equality between persons belonging to a national minority and those belonging to the majority. In this respect, they shall take due account of the specific conditions of the persons belonging to national minorities.

3. The measures adopted in accordance with paragraph 2 shall not be considered to be an act of discrimination.

As far as the legal framework governing discrimination is concerned, reference is made to the contribution provided by OSCAD in the Third and Fourth Reports as well as to the present detailed Report concerning the activity of OSCAD.

OBSERVATORY FOR SECURITY AGAINST DISCRIMINATORY ACTS

1. ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION

The Observatory for Security Against Acts of Discrimination (OSCAD) is an inter-agency body **established**, by decree of the Chief of Police, in **September 2010**, for the purpose of responding in operational terms to the demand for security from persons belonging to “vulnerable groups”, giving momentum to the activities carried out by the National Police and the Carabinieri Corps in the field of **prevention and fight against hate crimes** (ie crimes motivated by prejudice towards one or more “protected characteristics” – real or presumed by the perpetrator – of victims: “racial” or ethnic origin, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, language...).

2. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

To this end, OSCAD performs the following **activities**:

- receive reports sent by institutions, NGOs, victims/witnesses, also anonymously, to the dedicated e-mail address **oscad@dcpc.interno.it**;
- forward the reports received, as well as those acquired through the media, to the competent National Police or Carabinieri offices, asking for further information and/or targeted interventions;
- receive from the National Police and the Carabinieri Corps the reports transmitted by their respective field offices;
- monitor the progress of complaints filed directly with police authorities;
- feed an ad hoc IT system to monitor the reports received and the ensuing activities carried out;

3. MONITORING ACTIVITY

OSCAD monitoring system **does not produce ‘official statics’**, considering that the only official statistics on crime are those of the SDI system (‘Sistema di indagine’ – System of Investigation). SDI is the official inter-agency data base, at national level, that, being based on the criminal law violated by the perpetrator, does not allow to record the bias motivation of those crimes whose ‘ground’ is not specifically protected by the law (e.g. sexual orientation or gender identity) and, consequently, it is not possible to extract data on those grounds. On the other hand, taking into consideration that the Italian criminal law protects ‘race’, ethnicity, nationality, religion, and linguistic minorities all together, it is not even possible to disaggregate those data.

Since 2014 (data concerning 2013), in accordance with OSCE 9/09 Decision, OSCAD submits data to OSCE for their ‘Annual report’ (please see: <http://hatecrime.osce.org/italy>), the most relevant hate crime report at international level.

The different nature of the data is emphasised: official SDI data for ‘race’, ethnicity, nationality, religion, and linguistic minorities; unofficial reports received/collected by OSCAD for sexual orientation or gender identity. Regarding crimes committed against disabled persons, OSCAD submits both SDI data (related to crimes aggravated under circumstance of art. 36 Law 104/92) and OSCAD reports (related to crimes where disability is a ‘constitutive element’ of the offence or a ‘special aggravating circumstance’).

Because of the above-mentioned limits of the collection system, those data **cannot offer an official statistical framework** of hate crime in Italy.

So, although there has been a substantial improving of data submitted to OSCE during the past few years (from 71 in 2012 to 1048 in 2017), it is **not possible to correlate** for sure **such an increase** (basically due to an improvement of the monitoring mechanism) **to a proportional increase of hate crime in Italy**.

In February 2018, for the very first time, in the OSCAD webpage, hosted on the website of the Ministry of Interior, statistics on reports sent to OSCAD (<http://www.interno.gov.it/it/ministero/osservatori/osservatorio-sicurezza-contro-atti-discriminatori-oscad>) were published.

4. MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDINGS

1. In 2011, OSCAD signed a memorandum of understanding with UNAR (“Ufficio Nazionale Antidiscriminazioni Razziali” – National office against racial discrimination, set up within the Department for Equal Opportunities of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers), the Italian *Equality Body*, on the basis of which has been established:
 - ✓ information exchange pattern to deal with cases of discrimination reported to the two bodies, ie UNAR sending criminal cases (or cases falling within the competence of police agencies for other reasons) to OSCAD and OSCAD sending non-criminal cases to UNAR;
 - ✓ collaboration in training for police agencies.
2. In 2016, OSCAD signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Piedmont Region, aimed to create a regional network for better preventing and monitoring hate crime.

3. TRAINING ACTIVITIES FOR POLICE FORCES

Only through careful planning of training activities it is possible to increase the awareness of law enforcement about the crucial importance to prevent and fight hate crimes.

In fact, in full agreement with the well-established guidance of all the national, European and international bodies dealing with anti-discrimination at various levels, it is believed that – since law enforcement personnel are the first and most sensitive *front office* of the institutions for persons belonging ‘minority groups’ – it is absolutely essential to raise officers’ awareness, improve their training and, above all, clearly convey the message that respect for human rights along with prevention and fight against hate crimes are strategic priorities for the Italian Ministry of the Interior.

Being aware that a self-referential approach cannot be fruitful, relations with institutions and associations active in the field of anti-discrimination have been strengthened, in particular with

UNAR, the LGBTI Service of the Municipality of Turin, leader of the “Ready Network”¹, “Amnesty International”, “Polis Aperta”², “Lenford Network”³, Cospe⁴... and joint training activities have been enhanced.

From this perspective, great momentum has been given to the activities already undertaken in the past; in particular, many pioneering initiatives have been launched and/or planned.

The basic half-a-day seminar is formed by six modules:

- OSCAD organization and tasks/Hate Crimes and Hate Speeches/Legislation (taught by OSCAD experts); in this context, it is always highlighted that **Italian legislation against Hate Crime** (in particular art. 604bis and art. 604ter of the criminal code as well as provisions under Law 205/1993 (so called Mancino law’) under Law 38/2001 (that modified Law 482/1999, introducing art. 18bis) **specifically protects persons belonging to ‘Historical linguistic minorities’**.
- Discriminatory Ethnic Profiling (OSCAD experts);
- Prejudices/Stereotypes/Discrimination/Diversity/Racism (UNAR);
- Human Rights (Amnesty International – Italy);
- LGBTI persons and Police activities (“Rete Lenford”);
- Best practices in dealing with vulnerable victims (National Police investigators).

Nowadays, concerning these topics, the National Police provide 10 “periods” of training (45 minutes each) to the constables and 27 periods to the inspectors (pre-service training), instead of 6 as it used to be for both.

From 2012 onwards OSCAD has directly **trained more than 11.000 Police officers**.

4. ACTIVITIES AT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

Very often OSCAD participates in European/international projects about hate crime.

In this context, seminars on HC prevention/fight (sometimes a comprehensive HC training is provided, sometimes seminars are focused on specific topics such as LGBTI, Roma/Sinti/Travellers...) are organized for both National Police and Carabinieri.

✓ EUROPEAN/INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

○ “TAHCLE PROGRAMME”

It is extremely important to highlight the co-operation with OSCE-ODIHR in the implementation of the TAHCLE (‘Training Against Hate Crime for Law Enforcement’) programme: in 2014, 160 officers were trained in half-a-day seminars, whilst 30 senior officers were tutored in a ToT 3-day seminar. In 2017, 25 inspectors serving in Lombardy were trained within a regional project aimed at increasing the operational response to HC. In November 2018, another TAHCLE ToT session at

¹ National Network of public administrations against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

² LGBTI association of police and armed forces personnel.

³ “Lawyers for LGBTI rights – Lenford Network”: association of lawyers specialised in LGBTI rights.

⁴ NGO specialized in promoting dialogue among nations and for the elimination of discriminations.

national level for 26 senior officers was realized. Participants in all the above mentioned activities were from both National Police and Carabinieri.

○ **“NATIONAL LGBT STRATEGY”**

In April 2014, within the “National LGBT Strategy” (adopted by Italy for the implementation of the Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)5 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to Member States on measures to combat discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity⁵) in collaboration with UNAR and the LGBTI service of the Turin municipality, OSCAD organized two seminars (training of trainers) on preventing/fighting LGBTI discriminations and hate crimes for about 60 National Police and Carabinieri senior officers.

In the same framework, OSCAD organized 8 half a day courses, at regional level (2 in Milan, 4 in Naples and 2 in Palermo), overall 300 officers were trained.

○ **“ROMA, SINTI AND TRAVELLERS ISSUES”**

In November 2014, OSCAD cooperated with UNAR in the development of the European NET-KARD Project: Cooperation and Networking between Key Actors against Roma Discrimination. The overall objective of the project was to prevent discrimination of the Roma community and to improve the assistance to victims. The project developed some practical guides to prevent discrimination against the Roma community for: Roma associations and other social entities, media professionals, lawyers and jurists, police services. In the practical guide for law Enforcement OSCAD is mentioned as the Italian best practice.

In December 2014, OSCAD, in collaboration with the “Inter-governmental Cooperation, Anti-Gypsyism and Roma Equality Unit” of the Council of Europe, with UNAR and Amnesty International, provided a training course (training of trainers) for National Police senior officers specifically focused on Roma, Sinti and Travellers issues. Then, in September 2015, OSCAD, in cooperation with the Council of Europe, organized an international brainstorming meeting on antidiscrimination, with a specific focus on Roma and Sinti issues, that gathered experts from 17 different countries.

○ **“PRISM PROJECT”**

October 2015, OSCAD, in cooperation with UNICRI (United Nation Interregional Crime and Justice Research), took part as partner in the European project “PRISM” (Preventing Redressing and Inhibiting Hate Speech in new media). Within the project, a three-day training workshop finalized to increase Police awareness on preventing and combating hate crimes and hate speeches, was organized for 17 senior officers, from both National Police and Carabinieri.

○ **“EXPERIENCE CRIME PROJECT”**

In February and March 2016, OSCAD, in cooperation with COSPE (Cooperation for Development of Emerging Countries), took part as partner in the European project “Experience Crime: Increasing the capacity of law enforcement authorities to tackle racist crime, hate crime and homophobic crime through experiential learning”. Within the project two seminars were organized to train 40 officers, from both National Police and Carabinieri.

⁵ Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 31 March 2010 at the 1081st meeting of the Ministers’ Deputies.

- ***“COME FORWARD: EMPOWERING AND SUPPORTING VICTIMS OF ANTI-LGBT HATE CRIMES”***

In 2018, OSCAD took part in the European project “Come Forward” coordinated by the Law Department of the University of Brescia, aimed at preventing and countering homophobia and transphobia motivated crimes. This 24-month project, focused on combating and preventing hate crime against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people (LGBTI), provides a high qualified training for law enforcement, led by OSCAD experts. <https://www.unibs.it/node/12929>.

- ***“FACING ALL THE FACTS!”***

Since 2016, OSCAD is one of the co-beneficiary partners of the European project “Facing all the facts!”, that is led by the NGO “CEJI – a Jewish contribution to an inclusive Europe” (<http://www.ceji.org/?q=content/press-release-united-against-hate-crime-italy>).

In particular, the Observatory developed an on line course on hate crime for law enforcement, formed by three modules: “What is a Hate Crime?”, “Bias Indicators” and “Vulnerable Victims”.

✓ **EUROPEAN/INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

- ***FRA “WORKING PARTY ON IMPROVING REPORTING AND RECORDING OF HATE CRIME”.***

From November 2014 until 2016, OSCAD was member of FRA “Working Party On Improving Reporting And Recording Of Hate Crime” established in response of the Council “Conclusions on Combating Hate Crime in the European Union” which had invited Member States to take appropriate measures to encourage the reporting of Hate Crimes by victims and witnesses. In particular, OSCAD was co-leader of the sub-group concerning training.

The final result of the working party was a compendium of best practices where OSCAD is presented as the Italian best practice on combating hate crimes (<https://fra.europa.eu/en/theme/hate-crime/compendium-practices?page=1>).

- ***EUROPEAN COMMISSION “HIGH LEVEL GROUP ON COMBATING RACISM, XENOPHOBIA AND OTHER FORMS OF INTOLERANCE” (HLG)***

Since 2016, OSCAD is the representative of the Italian Department of Public Security in the European Commission “High Level Group on combating racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance” (which gathers representatives from all EU member States, Council of Europe, ECRI, OSCE/ODIHR, of UNHCR and NGOS) set up in order to improve the fight against hate crime, hate speech and discrimination in the EU area. In 2019, with the aim to further focus the activity at the operational level, members of the HLG agreed to set-up 3 thematic sub-groups on: monitoring/collecting data; training and capacity building for law enforcement; implementing victim support systems and services, in addition to the sub-group on countering illegal hate speech online set up since 2016.

“GUIDE TO JUDAISM FOR POLICE OFFICERS’

With the aim to increase the knowledge of the basic principles of Judaism amongst Police officers, OSCAD co-operated with UCEI (‘Union of the Italian Jewish communities’) in realizing a ‘Guide to Judaism for Police officers’ (launched in December 2018).

The ‘Police officer’s guide to Judaism’ published by the British Jewish NGO ‘CST’ (‘Community Security Trust’) was the inspiration for the project.

On the 20th of March 2012 by the resolution no. 467 the Regional Government of Veneto approved a triennial protocol agreement with UNAR- National Anti-Racial Discrimination Office, that is the office designated by the Italian Government to guarantee the right of an equal treatment.

The main aim of the agreement is to support and to strengthen the prevention measures and counter-actions against all forms of racism in the regional area as well as to promote the knowledge and the awareness of the immigrants’ rights.

The protocol, that has been signed on the 21st of March 2013, provides to establish a long-lasting collaboration with the purpose of noticing, fighting and preventing every kind of racial discrimination by the creation of Regional “Antenna”. The role of the Antenna, created with the UNAR technical support, is to prevent xenophobic behaviours and to oppose all kinds of racial discrimination.

The Veneto Region granted special attention to prevention and countering activities against discrimination. On the 28th of October 2013 by the resolution no. 1887 the Regional Government of Veneto, following the triennial plan 2013-2015, started the project RADAR (Network against discriminations and racial abuses). The purpose of this project, that has been financed by the European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals (EIF) - action 7/2012, was to create a network that helped the surfacing of racial and ethnic discriminations in work environments, also by creation of seven junction point, one in every main city of the region. Thanks to this project, that ended the 30th of June 2014, the first network against discriminations and racial abuses has been created in Veneto Region.

In compliance with the triennial plan 2013-2015, the 2014 Annual Plan about immigration policies was approved by the Regional Government of Veneto on the 14th of October 2014 by the resolution 1844. The plan established the network strengthening and the creation of a “Regional Lookout against discriminations” as the junction point of the previously created seven points.

The management of the “Regional Lookout against discriminations”, approved by resolution no. 2190 of the 27th of November 2014, was entrusted to Veneto Lavoro. Veneto Lavoro is a regional company, that was only RADAR project partner and the managing institution of the Immigration Regional Lookout and the Information Network about Immigration.

The main purpose of the Regional Lookout is to prevent and to oppose racial and ethnic discriminations together with local Antennas and information points. Then, the Regional Lookout has to organise and promote the antennas activities, the staff training, to stipulate protocols and agreements with organizations those can support the management. Finally, the Regional Lookout collects, analyse and systematize all the data about regional racial and ethnic discriminations episodes.

The Ministry of the Interior financed RECORD project, in compliance with the programme of the Asylum, Migration and integration Fund (AMIF) 2014-204, Specific Action 2. Integration/Legal Migration – National Action 3. Capacity building – L) Discriminations Fighting. The project ended on March 2018 and the budget was 250.803,00 euros.

The project activities were:

- a. Implementations of the regional network and a campaign to raise citizens awareness in order to surfacing the episodes of discrimination.
- b. Training of the civil servants.

- c. Actions in school and work environments in order to teach good practices in the event of preventing, mediating and solving conflicts.

The regional triennial plan 2019-2021 and the annual programme are currently pending approval. Both the policy programmes will strengthen the Regional Network and Regional Lookout activities and will create new support services for discriminated citizens.

The Regional Lookout, together with the Regional Network, will continue the activity of collect, analyse and systematize all the data about discriminations episodes in order to address the future plans and there will be local meeting with organizations interested to be part of the network in order to have a widespread presence of entities supporting and strengthening the prevention measures and counter-actions against all forms of racism.

Article 5

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

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

The linguistic minorities protected by Italy are listed by art. 2 of Law No. 482/1999, in compliance with the provision of art. 6 of the Constitution. The multiplicity of linguistic and cultural expressions are a wealth that adds value to our Country's heritage.

There are numerous cultural initiatives that relate to national minorities, many of which were organized with funding provided by Laws Nos. 482/1999 and 38/2001, while others were made possible by allocations of regions and other local authorities and which were dealt with at length in the Third and Fourth Reports and whose activities continue; in particular those referring to the numerically smaller minorities were widely covered in the second part of the present document on Historical Linguistic Minorities.

Article 6

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

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

Through its complete regulatory system, Italy promotes the spirit of tolerance, mutual respect and understanding, as well as cooperation among all persons living on the territory in a spirit of respect of one's own ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity.

To this end in various regions, as envisaged by Law No. 482/1999, measures are adopted with a view to promoting and protecting the linguistic and cultural heritage of minorities, so as to apply art. 6 of the Constitution as well as the principles enshrined in the major international conventions. The utmost importance is attached to promotion and support activities in favour of cooperation initiatives among institutions in the sectors of linguistics, education, training and the media.

For further information in this connection, especially relating to measures adopted to support vulnerable persons liable to become victims of discrimination, please refer to art. 4 of the present Report.

Article 7

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

As previously mentioned, articles 17, 18, 19 and 20 of the Italian Constitution, various regional statutes and a number of laws issued by Regions where minorities live guarantee the freedom of assembly, association, expression, thought, conscience and religion for all citizens, including the members of minorities. Associationism is a fundamental means to guarantee the above mentioned principle and the various minorities often resort to it .

CONFEMILI is the main body that groups the associations of the 12 recognised historical linguistic minorities and which carries out an activity of coordination, guidance and planning connecting local authorities and the associations themselves (See attachment two).

As far as the minority organizations are concerned, please refer to the widely described contents of the previous Reports.

Article 8

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

In our Country the fundamental principles of our legal system include the freedom of religion, i.e. the full right to freely profess one's own faith, to change one's own religious belief as well as to give rise to new beliefs (art. 19 of the Constitution), the freedom of all religions in front of the law (art. 8 of the Constitution) as well as the equality and equal dignity of all citizens also regardless of their religious opinions (art. 3). All of the above is to be considered against a backdrop of pluralism and secularism.

As far as the freedom of religion of minorities is concerned please refer to the content of the Third Report.

Article 9

1.The Parties undertake to recognise that the right to freedom of expression of every person belonging to a national minority includes freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas in the minority language, without interference by public authorities and regardless of frontiers. The Parties shall ensure, within the framework of their legal systems, that persons belonging to a national minority are not discriminated against in their access to the media.

2.Paragraph 1 shall not prevent Parties from requiring the licensing, without discrimination and based on objective criteria, of sound radio and television broadcasting, or cinema enterprises.

3.The Parties shall not hinder the creation and the use of printed media by persons belonging to national minorities. In the legal framework of sound radio and television broadcasting, they shall ensure, as far as possible, and taking into account the provisions of paragraph 1, that persons belonging to national minorities are granted the possibility of creating and using their own media.

4. In the framework of their legal systems, the Parties shall adopt adequate measures in order to facilitate access to the media for persons belonging to national minorities and in order to promote tolerance and permit cultural pluralism.

In Italy there exists freedom of the press, as a result the press cannot be the subject of authorizations or censorship, with the exception of the ban on publications and other forms of expressions contrary to public decency.

Art. 21 of the Constitution enshrines the right to freedom of expression according to which everybody is free to express his/her thoughts in wording, writing and any other means of expression.

As far as Minorities are concerned, this right materializes when they are enabled to communicate freely their thoughts including through the use of their own language. This right is guaranteed by means of printed media and radio and television programmes specifically designed to disseminate the minority cultures and give information in the minority languages.

In this connection reference is made to the outcome of the second part of the present Report on Historical Language Minorities.

For more in-depth study please refer to Article 9 of the previous Report.

It is worth stressing that following the Recommendations resulting from the IV Monitoring Cycle audiovisual communication media were requested to promote and implement specific RAI conventions on the Italian territory aimed at guaranteeing an adequate visibility to Minorities, particularly the numerically smaller ones which have enjoyed a lower level of protection and visibility since the entry into force of Law No. 482/1999.

In the above mentioned framework, Article 25, paragraph 1, point k of the 2018-2022's Service Contract between RAI and the Italian Government, states that:

“**Linguistic minorities:** in accordance with the provisions of Article 3, paragraph 1, letter g) of the Agreement, Rai is required to ensure the production and distribution of radio and television broadcasts and audiovisual content in German and Ladin for the Autonomous Province of Bolzano, in Ladin for the Autonomous Province of Trento, in Sardinian for the Autonomous Region of Sardinia, in French for the Autonomous Region of Valle d'Aosta and in Friulian and Slovene 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 agreements between the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and Rai are renewed within three months, as provided for by Law no. 103 of 14 April 1975 and subsequent amendments and additions.

For the relevant decisions, RAI is required to submit to the Ministry, within six months from the date of publication of this Contract in the Official Journal, an operational project agreed with the regions concerned for the purpose of concluding the relevant agreements, without prejudice to the agreements referred to in the second clause, to ensure the application of the provisions designed to protect the languages referred to in Law No 482 of 15 December 1999, taking account, more specifically, of the following criteria:

- i) differentiation of needs according to their respective areas of origin;
- ii) the need to pursue objectives of effectiveness and efficiency;
- iii) the characteristics of the different distribution platforms with regard to the targets to be achieved.

On this basis, we point out that on 7th March 2019 – as for the reports of its competence – RAI submitted to the Ministry of the Economic Development a project consisting of the following three macro areas:

- I) *Minority languages ex law 103/1975:*
The safeguard of these minority languages is granted in the framework of the existing agreements with the Information and Editorial Department of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers:
- II) *Friulian and Sardinian:*
The project foresees the realization of both Radio and TV programmes (to be defined – as it will be shown later – in agreement with the Regions concerned). This approach represents a step ahead from the past, given that for the Friulian language only Radio programmes have been realized, while - as for the Sardinian - the amount of the TV programmes has been significantly reduced.
- III) *Other minority languages:*
The project foresees the development of initiatives focused on digital platforms to be settled in the regional headquarters.

Once the Ministry of the Economic Development agrees on this setting, a new phase will start, involving the Regions concerned (Basilicata, Calabria, Campania, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Liguria, Molise, Piedmont, Puglia, Sardinia, Sicily, Trentino Alto Adige, Valle d'Aosta, Veneto) with respect to their minorities.

The goal is to establish an operational project that will be regulated by specific arrangements – as laid down by the Service Contract – in order to reach a final agreement.

Article 10

1.The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to use freely and without interference his or her minority language, in private and in public, orally and in writing.

2.In areas inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities traditionally or in substantial numbers, if those persons so request and where such a request corresponds to a real need, the Parties shall endeavour to ensure, as far as possible, the conditions which would make it possible to use the minority language in relations between those persons and the administrative authorities.

3.The Parties undertake to guarantee the right of every person belonging to a national minority to be informed promptly, in a language which he or she understands, of the reasons for his or her arrest, and of the nature and cause of any accusation against him or her, and to defend himself or herself in this language, if necessary with the free assistance of an interpreter.

A specific Fund for the financing of projects submitted by local authorities and local state administrations has been established at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers – Department of Regional Affairs; so far the priority use of the fund has been guaranteeing the oral and written use of protected languages.

This right is recognized by art. 9 of Law No. 482/1999; in the area of public administrations only the Armed Forces and National Law Enforcement Bodies are exempt from complying with this obligation.

The above mentioned funding has the priority aim of enabling Public Administrations to ensure that in their premises there are staff capable of understanding and speaking the minority language with the public. This personnel is specifically selected and trained.

In the second part of the present document more detailed information is provided on the allocations earmarked for Minorities.

Article 11

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

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

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

It is worth mentioning that this topic was thoroughly examined resulting in various and exhaustive initiatives. In this connection, please refer to art. 11 of the previous Report, as well as to the second part of the present document (Historical Linguistic Minorities).

Article 12

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

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

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

TEACHING AND LEARNING OF MINORITY LANGUAGES AT SCHOOL

Recommendation of the Council of Europe for immediate action:

Provide adequate funding for teaching of and national minority languages and ensure appropriate provision of qualified teachers and textbooks; pay special attention to the needs of persons belonging to the numerically smaller minorities.

Reference to Articles 12 and 14 of the Framework Convention

Law N. 107 of 13 July 2015 “Reform of the national education and training system and delegation for the reorganization of the existing legislative provisions”

It is important to underline that while Law N. 107 of 13 July 2015 does not contain specific norms on minority languages, it lays down some provisions that constitute major opportunities for minority language teaching.

First of all, the Law provides for a reinforcement of school autonomy, finalized to the strengthening of the educational offer and project activities, and identifies among the educational objectives “the valorisation and the enhancement of language competences, with particular reference to the Italian language and to English and other languages of the European Union, also through the use of the Content Language Integrated Learning methodology”. Each educational institution should define in its Triennial Plan of educational offer some initiatives connected to the cultural, social and economic local context.

Secondly, the Law introduces in the school autonomous organisations some figures dedicated to the reinforcement of the educational offer in order to implement the priority projects.

Consequently, each educational institution can define the number of teachers needed to strengthen the educational offer and so they can employ the teachers possessing specific linguistic competences that are part of the staff, even those qualified to teach in other educational levels, to activate the minority language teaching for the 20% autonomous part of their curriculum. Besides, each educational institution should also define in their Triennial Plan of educational offer some activities responding to the cultural, social and economic needs of the local context, using those teachers that have specific minority language competences. Moreover, the educational institutions that would like to promote and develop the minority culture and language can use the funds provided by the Legislative Decree N. 60/2017 dedicated to the enhancement of the humanist culture, the valorization of the cultural heritage and productions and the support to creativity. In fact, the Decree includes the so-called Plan of Arts that provides specific funds and defines strategic priorities such as “ensure linguistic pluralism and an attention to minorities and local popular traditions”.

Adaptation of Law N. 107 of 13 July 2015 to the schools in which Slovene is the teaching language.

In order to comply with Art. 1, paragraph 197 of Law N. 107 of 13 July 2015, the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research issued the Ministerial Decree N. 809 of 8 October 2015 regarding special provisions for the educational institutions in which Slovene is the teaching language and bilingual educational institutions Slovene-Italian.

In particular, the decree contains provisions regarding the initial training and the enrolment of the teaching staff together with the adaptation of the educational supply in relation to the specific needs of the schools in which Slovene is the teaching language.

- The educational institutions in which Slovene is the teaching language and bilingual educational institutions Slovene-Italian define the teaching staff requirements bearing in mind the priority training objective of the reinforcement of the Slovene language teaching;
- The Triennial Plan of the educational offer can include activities and initiatives developed in collaboration with schools, institutions and bodies of the Republic of Slovenia;
- The students of the schools in which Slovene is the teaching language and bilingual educational institutions can develop a part of the educational pathway in the schools of the Republic of Slovenia according to the modalities defined in the Triennial Plan of the educational offer;
- As for the National Plan for Digital Education and the Single Data Portal, the service “online Enrolment” is also active for the schools in which Slovene is the teaching language;

- The decree also provides for the technical adaptation of the National Evaluation System in order to allow the translation and the compilation in Slovenian of the tests laid down for the national surveys of learning outcomes;
- The decree also gives the opportunity to the teachers of the schools in which Slovene is the teaching language to use the electronic card for training to pay the fees of refresher courses and qualification pathways organised by Slovenian bodies which are accredited at the Special Office of the Regional Board of Education which may conclude agreements with the Universities of the Republic of Slovenia and with other external experts;
- With reference to the special Recruitment Plan for the school year 2015/2016, the Board of Education of the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia also defined the number of teachers, as for the different disciplines and the support to the pupils with disabilities, of the schools in which Slovene is the teaching language or bilingual schools according to the Annex I to the Law;
- In order to ensure the representation and participation rights of the schools of the Slovenian linguistic minority, the decree provided a reservation of places in the collegial bodies at national and local level.

Enrolment and initial training of teachers

If we exclude the case of the teachers of schools in which Slovene is the teaching language, for which a specific class of recruitment is provided, there are not classes of recruitment for the minority languages teaching due to the great number of languages, the linguistic variations of each safeguarded minority and their different dissemination throughout the Italian territory.

So, the teachers that teach the minority language in schools situated in locations safeguarded by Law N. 482 of 1999 are teachers, professionally qualified to teach at the pre-primary or primary schools or in the specific disciplines of secondary schools, who possess further competences in the specific minority language acquired through university courses or other training courses, that is to say additional certifications to the provided professional qualification for each school level acquired through continuous training. In the case of the Friulian language, there is a regional register of teachers.

Recently, in order to monitor the linguistic competences of the minority languages teachers and design possible actions, the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research has issued a new Plan of

initiatives and funds to realise national and local projects concerning linguistic minorities and has requested to the applicant schools to specify the linguistic certification (i.e. masters, specialisation pathways, training courses, etc) acquired by the teachers that will work in minority languages courses.

Finally, it is important to notice that during the public competitions organized to enroll the teachers that will work in schools in which Slovene is the teaching language or bilingual schools, the tests are in Slovenian except for the teachers that will teach the Italian language and literature.

Financing Plan to realise projects for linguistic minorities

Each year the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research publish financing plans to realise national and local projects concerning the languages and cultural traditions of linguistic minorities. The public calls are addressed to the school leaders of the first cycle institutions – included pre-primary schools – that are situated in “delimited local and municipal areas where the provisions concerning the protection of historical linguistic minorities is applied”. The school leaders can present project proposal concerning the local network of institutions to be implemented in the following two years.

In the two-year period 2015-2017 the Ministry has financed 20 projects concerning 8 regions and addressing 9 minority languages for a total amount of 168,278 euro. In the period 2016-2018 the Ministry has financed 13 projects distributed in 6 regions and addressed to 8 minority languages for a total amount of 174,457 euro. Finally, in the period 2017-2019 the Ministry has financed 14 projects distributed in 7 regions and addressed to 6 minority languages for a total amount of 174,457 euro. In any case, the Ministry tries to valorize every minority language concerned in the project proposals – especially the less diffused – allocating funds at least to one project for each protected minority language.

The Ministry has issued a public call also for the period 2018-2020. We have received 14 project proposals and we have financed 10 projects distributed in 5 regions and targeted at 8 minority languages for a total amount of 171,681 euro. Moreover, considering that this year 2019 marks 20 years since the passing of Law N. 482 of 1999, the Ministry provided in the financing plan also the organization of a National Seminar, that will be realized in autumn, in order to present and disseminate the best practices.

The last public calls have had the objective to promote a new type of projects that are not only finalized to the valorisation of historical or folklore aspects but also to the dissemination of the use of the living language and a real contextualisation of learning. In that direction, the Ministry has fostered the implementation of the projects during the curricular timetable together with the prosecution of extra-curricular activities as part of the educational offer; the Ministry requires the production of materials and didactic tools that could be transferable and be able to support the methodological innovation and process innovation; finally, the Ministry calls for an exchange among the different cultural and linguistic realities that are present in a territory fostering the presentation of project proposals concerning the collaboration among the different minority languages safeguarded by the Law N. 482 of 1999.

The projects financed by the Ministry of Education, University and Research include different activities, contents and methodologies according to the age cohort of involved pupils. For this reason, at the pre-primary school the minority language is used together with the Italian language in the development of educational activities while at the primary and low secondary school it becomes the vehicle of the different disciplines of the compulsory curriculum.

The vision of the language as a privileged cultural vehicle, an incentive for plurilingualism, stimulates the teachers and pushes them to develop greater competences for language learning and also intercultural competences. This vision fosters the awareness the linguistic integration and the exchange with other languages are at the base of a cultural pathways which gives dignity and strength to the minority language and promotes a real plurilingual curriculum. In fact, the analysis of project proposals highlights that the pursued objectives are in general tied to the identity aspects of the language, together with the promotion of communicative and relational competences in plurilingual contexts such as:

- developing situational awareness of the importance of the language and culture of one's region as an essential factor of rootedness;
- promoting the recovering of the linguistic code used by the previous generations in order to reinforce a sense of belonging to one's local and regional community;
- fostering the formation of a solid cultural and social identity that allows the encounter with other cultures preventing an inferiority complex and the prejudices of ethnocentrism;
- developing authentic motivation to the acquisition of plurilingual competences in order to possess all the needed instruments for social interaction;
- celebrating the culture of origin for a balanced personal growth and the development of cognitive and communicative skills in a context of global and intercultural relations.

The methodologies used are connected to the approaches of playful glottodidactics, multimedia languages, the interactive participation of children, parents and teachers, the vehicular use of the language in its local variation. The use of technological instruments is very useful to present the minority language stimulating the young generations to take back one's linguistic heritage in a playful way. Moreover, the multimedia outputs can be uploaded in the websites of the networks of schools and in the online platforms in order to be easily usable by the learners and also easily transferred in other contexts.

In the last few years, in order to give an impulse to the schools' planning – in particular in the areas where the minority language is less used – the regional Boards of Education, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, have organised follow-up seminars such as the Seminar “Langues and languages in the global school” organised on 10 March 2016 in Campobasso for the schools using the Arbereshe and Croatian languages. The Ministry of Education, University and Research has also participated to other events such as: the Expo of Languages organised on 25 September 2015 in Perugia with a speech on “Minority Languages in Italy and educational plurilinguism”; the Conference “Marilenghe and mariscuele. Third meeting of Friulian School” organised on 9 April 2016 in Codroipo – Udine – and the International Conference “The Linguistic Policies and problems connected to teachers training”.

National Guidelines and textbooks

There is not a National Curriculum of minority languages, however in the National Guidelines for pre-primary schools and the first cycle a particular attention is paid to the valorization of the mother tongue and one's cultural heritage following the vision that plurilingual and intercultural education is a cultural instrument fostering active citizenship.

At the same time, there are not textbooks written in a minority language, with the exception of the cases in which the language is part of the curriculum as in schools in which Slovene is the teaching language or bilingual schools Slovene-Italian or in the case of Ladin schools in Bolzano. In the majority of cases there are

didactic materials alternative to textbooks – illustrated dictionaries, young-adult fiction, other types of books – often self-produced with the scientific and financial contribution of associations or local agencies. Some of them are dedicated to the language literacy as first language or L2 while other materials are dedicated to the teaching of other disciplines such as History, Sciences and Mathematics at the different educational levels. In other areas of Italy, the situation is very heterogeneous. In the North of Italy, coherently with the common involvement of the territorial administration and the local bodies, the materials are designed and realised by the schools and their production is frequently carried out by extracurricular bodies such as: Regions and Autonomous Provinces or private publishing houses. Friulian Schools can use the materials produced by ARLEF while Ladin Schools are supported by OLFED in the designing and production of the didactic material. On the contrary, i

Premise

The actions and resources listed below are not aimed exclusively at Rom pupils.

The 1,2,3 Actions are aimed at scholastic and social contexts of complexity and discomfort, with particular attention to urban peripheries. In these contexts there are usually settlements, schools and territories with the presence of Rom minors and families.

Action 4 is dedicated directly to the integration of Rom children.

Data collection of Rom, Sinti and Caminanti students

There is a critical point: data on Rom pupils have not been collected since the 2016/2017 school year and published in the annual Miur / Ismu report due to the provision of the Privacy Authority. The problem arises of identifying another way of understanding the school attendance of minors belonging to this group different than the ethnic nature. From the 2015 data, the total number of Rom, Sinti and Caminanti students enrolled in school, from pre-primary to high school, was 12.437. Regions with the highest number of registrations are: Lazio, Lombardia, Piemonte and Calabria. Students enrolled in upper secondary schools are 248 (in National report, Students with non-Italian citizenship, 2014/2015, MIur / Ismu, 2016).

1 "Qualification of the school system in multicultural contexts", starting from 2017/2018, FAMI Action (Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund)

Schools and networks of schools have been involved in the action "Qualification of the school system in multicultural contexts" in all Italian Regions. The Regions are beneficiaries and leaders of the projects whose goal is to fight school dropout. The total amount of funds was 13 million euros (European funds of the FAMI program).

2 National seminars for training, discussion and exchange of experiences: "The peripheries in the center"

Three national seminars, The peripheries in the center, were organized for comparison and exchange of experiences and best practices . School and territory in multicultural contexts ": Rome, April, 2017, in collaboration with the Municipality of Roma and the regional school office for Lazio; Milano, November 2017, in collaboration with the Municipality of Milano and the regional school office for Lombardia and Napoli, 5/6 December 2018. In these meetings, schools and associations engaged in Rom pupils integration presented educational experiences directed to Rom children, in contexts of particular discomfort, as urban suburbs of big cities. More than 30% of Rom children lives in the cities of Palermo, Napoli, Roma and Milano. The comparison also involved local authorities, as well as 600 teachers and school managers. The resources committed for these 3 meetings amount around 50,000 euros.

3 "The schools at the center". Measures for inclusion and fight to discomfort

The Miur program has funded, in 2017 for 240 million euros, resources by the European Social Fund (ESF), the promotion of summer or afternoon school opening, with particular attention to the suburb schools with educational activities focused on non-verbal languages ,artistic and sporting practice.

General objectives of the action:

- to rebalance and compensate situations of socio-economic disadvantage in particularly , poor, peripheral and at risk areas. Interventions were targeted on groups of students with specific difficulties and needs, and therefore exposed to major abandonment risks, involving other actors: public and local bodies, associations, foundations, professionals. Therefore, it seems strategic goal that schools are available to open extra time (afternoon, weekends and vacation times) to pupils and their families and neighborhood people, becoming community space in areas with housing problems and high rate of school dropout

Specific objectives were:

- Reduction of early formative failure and school leaving.
- Education and Support for students characterized by particular frailties.

4. National project for the inclusion and integration of Rom, Sinti and Caminanti children. Collaboration with the Ministry of Labor and Social Policies, promoter of the project, and with the Ministry of Health

Starting the 2013, MIUR collaborates with the Ministry of Labor project for the integration of Rom and Sinti children and adolescents continued, in a regulatory framework of reference of the "National Strategy for Inclusion of RSC populations "

The objectives are: improving the school inclusion of children; facilitating access to health and social services, even for families; creation of a partnership among the municipalities participating in the project. The activities took place in Bari, Bologna, Catania, Firenze, Genova, Messina, Milano, Napoli, Palermo, Reggio Calabria, Roma, Torino, Venezia.

Since 2013, an ever increasing number of subjects and territories have participated. The three-year period 2018/2020 foresees the involvement of 81 schools, 266 classes, 600 Rom, Sinti and Caminanti students and 5,000 non-Rom, Sinti and Caminanti students.

Characteristics of this project are:

- intervention on whole class and not only on Rom pupils;
- involvement of families, also through visits of teachers to camps and Rom settlements;
- meetings with parents about children specific needs,
- socialization activities.

The project foresees training activities for integration of Rom, Sinti and Caminanti students, and intercultural education, for teachers, school administrators, and operators who work with families in Rom settlements.

The project, which uses funds by the PON Inclusion, will continue in the year 2019/2020.

The financing for the three-year period 2018/2020 is 1,800,000 euros.

Article 13

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

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

The present question was already answered to in the previous report, when it was also clarified that the national education system does not exclude the possibility for members of language minorities to set up and manage their own private educational establishments.

Article 14

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

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

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

Our Country guarantees the right to the knowledge of minority languages. In this connection art 4 of Law 482/99 is of vital importance as it envisages the teaching of minority languages in addition to Italian starting in kindergartens of municipalities where minority groups live.

The use of minority languages is considered to be of fundamental importance in order to guarantee a real multilingualism through the integrated teaching of Italian and community and minority languages.

While exercising their organizational and didactic autonomy, schools lay down the criteria and draw up the projects of all relevant activities in this connection with a view to an accomplished educational pathway.

The Ministry of Education, University and Research promoted numerous initiatives and projects. In this connection please refer to the content of the above article 12.

Article 15

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

Please refer to the content of art. 7 on freedom of association for minorities living in Italy.

Article 16

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

The Italian legal system envisages a careful procedure of territorial modification carried out by involving various layers of responsibility and in consultation with the interested populations through referenda, as already clarified in article 16 of the previous Report.

The relevant articles of the Constitution are on the one hand art. 132 which envisages the possibility of merging existing regions and creating new regions, as well as of aggregating provinces and municipalities and on the other art. 133 which envisages the possibility of changing the provincial territorial delimitations and creating new provinces. All of the above is brought about through laws of the Republic, upon initiative of Municipalities and in consultation with the Regions themselves.

Article 17

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

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

Article 18

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

2.Where relevant, the Parties shall take measures to encourage transfrontier co-operation.

As far as articles 17 and 18 are concerned, please refer to article 2 of the previous Report on transfrontier co-operation and on relations with the origin Countries of the minority groups living in our Country.

Article 19

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

As is well known, Italy ratified the Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities; in connection with this article please refer to the content of the previous Report. However, it is worth stressing here that a synergic action of all institutional, civil society and media representatives makes the full promotion and enhancement of minority traditions and cultures fully effective, while respecting equality and paying specific attention to diversity.