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

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



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Sixth Report submitted by Cyprus

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REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

**FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES**

**SIXTH PERIODIC REPORT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS**



OFFICE OF THE LAW COMMISSIONER
REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

Nicosia, 1 February 2024

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Sixth Periodic Report of Cyprus on the Application of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities ('Report') was prepared in accordance with the 'Outline for the State reports to be submitted under the sixth monitoring cycle of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, [ACFC/OP/V (2022)002,8.7.2022] approved by the Committee of Ministers at their 1439th meeting on 8 July 2022. The present Report should be read together with all background information provided in the Initial, Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Periodic Reports of Cyprus on the application of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

2. The Fifth Cycle Opinion on Cyprus of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention ('the Opinion'), was adopted on the 7th November 2019 and made public on 28.5.2020. The Fifth Cycle Committee of Ministers' Resolution CM/ResCMN(2021)3 was adopted on 13.1.2021. Thus, the present Report covers the results of the Fifth Monitoring Cycle of the implementation of the Framework Convention by Cyprus and the measures taken by the Cypriot authorities in the light of the Opinion, as well as the issues raised and the recommendations in the Resolution. The comments of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus ('the Government') on the Opinion were submitted on 20.5.2020.

3. This Report is hereby submitted by the Law Commissioner of the Republic of Cyprus due to competency entrusted by the Council of Ministers in its Decision no.38958, dated 25.2.1993, for Cyprus' compliance with obligations stemming from the ratification of international conventions.

4. The drafting of this Report is the result of a coordinated cooperation of the Law Commissioner with the Ministry of Interior, (Mol) and the contributions of the competent authorities. Particularly, Mol, has coordinated the contributions for the present Report with its own contribution including the Press and Information Office (P.I.O), the Cyprus Radio Television Authority (CRTA) and the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation (CyBC). Significant contributions were also provided by the Office of the Presidential Commissioner, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth (MoESY), the

Cyprus Police, the Social Welfare Services of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, the Deputy Ministry of Welfare, the Deputy Ministry of Culture¹ and the Statistical Service, (CYSTAT).The Representatives of the Armenian, Maronite and Latin Religious Groups and their respective Offices were implicated in the process by the Law Commissioner and all information that was given by them was taken into consideration. This Report, will, upon submission, be published on the Office of the Law Commissioner's and the MoI's websites and be communicated to the Representatives of the Armenian, Maronite and Latin Religious Groups.

5. As stated in the previous Reports as the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, (hereinafter 'the Convention') contains no definition of the notion of 'national minorities', it is up to the contracting parties to determine the national minorities to which it shall apply the Framework Convention. The term 'national minorities' within the meaning of the Framework Convention is understood to designate for purposes of the present Report the following minority groups of citizens of the Republic of Cyprus, that is the Armenian, Maronite and Latin (Roman Catholic) religious groups composed of citizens of the Republic of Cyprus who at the time of establishment of the Republic of Cyprus in 1960 opted in accordance with its Constitution to be part of the Greek Community(Article 2,paragraph 33 of the Constitution)(hereinafter the "religious groups").

6. Due to the continued illegal occupation of 36.2% of the territory of the Republic of Cyprus, since 1974, the Government is prevented from exercising effective control over all of its national territory, and cannot ensure the application of the rights guaranteed in the Framework Convention in areas not under its effective control. To this regard, it is clarified that the information and data presented in this Report concern solely, the Government controlled areas. It should be noted that, according to Protocol No.10 on Cyprus Annexed to the 2003 "Act concerning the Conditions of Accession ofthe Republic of Cyprus..... and the adjustments to the Treaties on which the European Union is founded", the application of the '*acquis*' is suspended in those areas of the

¹ The Deputy Ministry of Culture hereinafter DMoC has been established on the 1st of July 2022 by Law 55(I)/2022.Throughout the whole Report reference will be made to the Department of Modern and Contemporary Culture of the DMoC and not to the Cultural Services of the MoECSY.

Republic of Cyprus in which the Government does not exercise effective control.

PART I – Measures taken to raise awareness of the results of the fifth monitoring cycle and of the Framework Convention

On which website(s) have the fifth cycle opinion and the related Committee of Ministers Resolution been published and in which language(s), including minority languages? Please provide the relevant links.

7. Published at: The Office of the Law Commissioner, at [http://www.olc.gov.cy/olc/olc.nsf/All/0AFF861B5BE378DDC225847400215233/\\$file/Fifth%20Periodic%20Report%20-%20Framework%20Convention%20for%20the%20Protection%20of%20National%20Minorities.pdf](http://www.olc.gov.cy/olc/olc.nsf/All/0AFF861B5BE378DDC225847400215233/$file/Fifth%20Periodic%20Report%20-%20Framework%20Convention%20for%20the%20Protection%20of%20National%20Minorities.pdf)

Languages: In English

Which domestic follow-up activities were organized, including activities organized jointly with the Council of Europe, and what are the outcomes?

8. There were no activities organized jointly with the Council of Europe. However, there were many follow-up activities including raising awareness by almost all competent authorities, for supporting the rights of the religious groups.

9. During the period under this consideration, several meetings were held with officials and/or religious leaders of Armenians, Maronites and Latins. The discussions surrounded on issues of common traditions, historical similarities and national survival struggles through joint actions and programs.

10. A Scheme regarding 'The Support of Cultural Activities of Religious Groups' was formed. The Scheme, is under the competency of the Deputy Ministry of Culture, and regulates the procedures undertaken by associations and

organizations of religious groups in order to submit applications for the organization of cultural events and other activities.

11. The MoESY, the Presidential Commissioner and the CyBC, with the cooperation of the Representatives of the religious groups in the House of Representatives, released the production and screening of a total of 15 videos related to their long presence in Cyprus.

12. At the initiative of the Office of Presidential Commissioner and in collaboration with the Cyprus Pedagogical Institute, during the covid-19 pandemic, a training webinar on the 'Safe use of the internet by children', was organized (April 2021). At the webinar pupils enrolled in various schools of religious groups participated.

13. In 2022, discussions between the Presidential Commissioner and the Armenian Representative in the House of Representatives with the competent Departments and Services of the Government, concerned the hosting and budgeting a Museum of the Armenian-Cypriot community. The Government supports these efforts, as it considers that such a development would be beneficial for all citizens, and would provide even further knowledge for the rich culture and history of the Armenians of Cyprus. The discussions are ongoing.

How were minority organisations and other non-governmental organisations involved in the preparation of the sixth state report?

14. The Government which came into office in 1st March 2023, has demonstrated its commitment to enhance its cooperation with and support to the national minority groups. The Presidential Commissioner continued to have competence, inter alia, for issues related to religious groups. Please also refer to previous Report , Part I, paragraphs 11 and 12.

Which other measures were taken to promote awareness of the Framework Convention among persons belonging to national minorities, public officials, local and regional authorities, and the general public?

15. As previously stated in para 8 of this Report, there were several initiatives undertaken by the competent authorities. On the basis of targeted actions and decisions made by the Government regarding the religious groups, several projects have been implemented while others are in the process of implementation. These projects promote the preservation of the religious groups' religion and cultural heritage, as well as education, sports and history.

16. In April 2022, the Presidential Commissioner held a meeting in the occupied village of Kormakitis, with the enclaved and resettled Maronite residents to identify difficulties stemming from their resettlement based on a Governmental Plan; particularly, the Plan concerns the young Maronite people who want to be resettled in occupied Kormakitis.

17. Also, during 2022, a Plan titled "Repair of Houses for the Enclaved, for Maronites and Greek Cypriots", was completed. This Plan aimed at providing special funds as incentives for the resettlement of those Maronites, who wish to resettle in their ancestral homes.

18. With concerted actions and efforts of the Presidential Commissioner, sponsorship was secured for the construction of sports facilities in the occupied Maronite village of Kormakitis. Through an Ad Hoc Special Project Committee for the technical and financial control, the project was completed in May 2023. The facilities will be utilized by the Maronites and their organized sport clubs.

19. In December 2022, the foundation stone for the construction of the Maronite Sporting Centre in Lefkosia, was laid by the President of the Republic of Cyprus. Through coordinated efforts of the Presidential Commissioner and the Representative of the Maronite religious group in the House of Representatives funds have been secured.

20. Upon an initiative of the Presidential Commissioner, the placement of nursing staff in the occupied Maronite village of Kormakitis was achieved, which ensures better living conditions for the enclaved Maronites.

21. PIO is the state agent responsible for the issue of any relative Press Releases on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in the Government-controlled areas.

22. PIO aims at producing, updating, and/or reprinting publications dedicated to the three religious' groups in Cyprus. These publications are widely circulated and are also accessible online, via the PIO official website (publications.gov.cy) (See previous Report paragraphs 59, 60 and also Fourth Report, paragraph 73).

23. In 2021, as part of its ongoing effort to promote awareness on the religious groups of Cyprus, PIO published two hardcover editions, to highlight the centuries-old presence of the Latins in Cyprus, and to enlighten the readers about their origins and their contribution to Cyprus.

24. The first edition titled '*Unus pro Omnibus, Sylvain Béraud and the Latins of Cyprus*', is published in Greek, written by Dr Iosif Hadjikyriakos (research, interviews and text) on Dr Sylvain Beraud, a prominent figure of the Latin community of Cyprus. The text about Dr Beraud's life and family story narrates facts and dates as to the origin and history of the Latin religious group.

25. The second edition titled "Armando Josephin 1931-2011", dedicated to Armando Josephin, a well-known member of the Latin Community, was published in Greek in collaboration with the MoESY, following an initiative of the Representative of the Latin religious group in the House of Representatives. The book was based on narratives of people who have met him in person. Both publications were presented in events opened to the general public, organized in Lefkosia by PIO. Both are available free of charge and are accessible online at the PIO official website.

26. In order to support and promote the identity and culture of the Armenian religious group, the MoESY in close collaboration with the appointed Armenian Committee of Experts and the PIO is planning to publish a book dedicated to Melkonian Educational Institute (MEI). The MEI was an Armenian boarding school with high academic and cultural standards, that was established in 1924 and closed down in 2005, following a unilateral decision by the Central Board of the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU),

notwithstanding Panarmenian and Pancyprian reactions. The book will be written in three languages Western Armenian, Greek and English.

27. PIO, in ensuring transparency and consistency in the allocation of funds, within the scope of its mission and services offered, has its resources available to all three religious' groups, to produce further publications, in cooperation with the representatives of each group, to raise awareness and to education the general public on their history and culture.

28. In order to support, promote the identity and culture of the religious groups and provide overall awareness to the general public about their history, religious, values, and contribution to the society, the MoESY in collaboration with the Representatives of the religious groups in the House of Representatives, the Presidential Commissioner and the CyBC, produced 15 short films/videos on the history, culture, language, traditions, but also the bonds of our compatriots Maronites, Armenians and Latins with Cyprus. The videos have been broadcasted several times since October 2021, in CyBC channel 1 and channel 2. A press conference was held by the MoESY on the 19th of November, 2021 where the videos were presented. During this event ,the Representatives of the religious groups in the House of Representatives, the president of the administrative board of the CyBC and, on behalf of the Minister of MoESY ,Dr Kyprianos Louis, the General Coordinator for issues concerning religious groups addressed speeches. The event was broadcasted by CyBC and other private media. A press release was published by PIO.²

29. Numerous cultural events and activities of the three religious groups were funded under the Grant-aid Scheme of the Department of Modern and Contemporary Culture of the Deputy Ministry of Culture and other events took place between 2020-2023. More specifically:

- Office of the Representative of the Armenian Religious Group

2020 - The annual dance event, with the participation of all Dance Groups:
Nanor Juniors, formed by the Armenian Representative Vartkes

² PIO, 19/11/2021 Announcements:

<https://www.pio.gov.cy/%CE%B1%CE%BD%CE%B1%CE%BA%CE%BF%CE%B9%CE%BD%CF%89%CE%B8%CE%AD%CE%BD%CF%84%CE%B1-%CE%AC%CF%81%CE%B8%CF%81%CE%BF.html?id=24197#flat>

Mahdessian, SIPAN Nicosia, ANI Pafos and KILIKIA Limassol and NANOR Junior. In 2020, the programme was shortened due to covid, however, there was a performance on 31st October 2020, dedicated to the Armenian Soldiers, at HMEM – AYMA grounds.

Theatrical Production: The Timag Drama Group presented a locally written and directed comedy.

2021 - The annual dance event, with the participation of all Dance Groups (Hamazkayin SIPAN Nicosia, KILIKIA Limassol, ANI Paphos and NANOR Junior Dance Ensemble), on 21st November 2021, dedicated to 21 years of SIPAN DANCE ENSEMBLE, at Strovolos Municipal Theatre.

2022- The annual dance event, with the participation of all Dance Groups (Hamazkayin SIPAN Nicosia, KILIKIA Limassol, ANI Paphos and NANOR Junior Dance Ensemble), on 29th May 2022, dedicated to the historic Melkonian Educational Institute, at Strovolos Municipal Theatre. A theatrical production was presented by the Ipekian Group invited from Beirut, Lebanon.

2023- The annual dance event, with the participation of all Dance Groups (Hamazkayin SIPAN Nicosia, KILIKIA Limassol, ANI Paphos and NANOR Junior Dance Ensemble), on 6th May 2023, dedicated to the 95th Anniversary of Hamazkayin Armenian Cultural Association, at Strovolos Municipal Theatre.

Theatrical Production: The Hekiat Youth Drama Group presented a theatrical adaptation of a famous Armenian author, about the lives of Armenian orphans.

A Theater Workshop was created to get the Armenian youth interested in drama and encourage them to take part in plays. Instruction was by two dedicated producers via zoom and also personal monthly visits to Cyprus from Lebanon.

-Office of the Representative of the Latin Religious Group

2019- The Office of the Representative of the Latin Religious Group organised an event celebrating Armando Josephin who was a multitalented and well-known personality of the Cyprus Latin Community. The event was

called “Musician, Painter and Model aircraft maker-celebrating Armando Josephin” and featured a musical performance of his songs as well as an exhibition of some of his paintings, engravings and model aircraft. The event was held at the “House of Latins” and was funded by the former Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education.

2019-2020 - An exhibition was organised by the House of Representatives following a proposal of the Representative of the Latin Religious Group, called the “Latins of Cyprus” which took place in Nicosia on 10th-16th October 2019 and was recreated in Limassol on 28th July-19th October 2020. The exhibition included historical information and photographic material as well as various objects connected to the long presence of Latins in Cyprus. The exhibition formed part of series of events celebrating 60 years of the establishment of the House of Representatives. A book was subsequently prepared with the material used in the exhibition and it was published in three separate editions (in English, in Greek, in Italian) by the Department of Research Studies and Publication Services of the House of Representatives.

2020 - A series of short videos, entitled ‘The Latins of Larnaca’: The original idea was to host an exhibition in Larnaca of the traditional Latin families of the town and to highlight their story, their contribution to the development of Larnaca society and their commercial/social activities. Due to the continuing Covid restrictions at the time, the original execution of the idea was subsequently amended to become a series of short videos. Each episode, recorded the oral history of a different traditional Latin family of Larnaca through one of the family’s descendants. In their totality, the series demonstrated the influence of Latins in many areas of Cyprus society e.g., education, architecture, culture, medicine, shipping, infrastructure, commerce, teaching of foreign languages, etc. The videos were circulated through social media and are hosted on the YouTube channel ‘Latin Catholics of Cyprus’.

2021- MoESY organized a ceremony for the presentation of the book “Armando Josephin 1931-2011”, at the Museums of the Pancyprian High School in Nicosia. An exhibition with personal photos, paintings, aircraft models were inaugurated in the same place. The exhibition was transferred with

great success to the Pieridis Museum- Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation in Larnaca, where the book was also presented.

2021 -In collaboration with a member of the Latin Community, the tenor Andreas Aroditis, and his musical ensemble, 4 performances of classical western music were organized. The performance was called 'An Evening of Art Songs with Andreas Aroditis'. The aim of the activity was to present works of classical music that highlighted the influence of the Catholic Church on European classical music and to bring to Cyprus the tradition of hosting musical events in churches – all the evening (except in Paphos) were held in Latin Catholic Churches (Larnaca, Limassol & Nicosia).

2021- A lecture in Limassol called "Children and electronic devices: understanding and dealing with the new reality" was organized by the Office of the Representative of the Latin Religious Group, in collaboration with the Youth Section of the Latin Association "Thriskeftiki Omada Latinon Kyprou", with the NGO "Kepaky" and with the Cyprus Police. One of the two speakers was from the Office for Combating Cybercrime of the Cyprus Police.

2022- A series of short videos, entitled "Latins of Cyprus": The remaining historical families were recorded, which were not based in Larnaca. Again, each episode featured the narration by a family member of their own family's history and showed their contribution to the development of Cyprus society and how the Latins formed the European core of Cyprus society through education, commerce and by maintaining their family and cultural links with their countries of origin. The videos were circulated through social media and are hosted on the YouTube channel "Latin Catholics of Cyprus".

2023 - Two musical performances were organised entitled 'Songs from our Shared Heritage'. The performance was comprised of well-loved European songs which were performed in their original languages. The audience had the opportunity to enjoy songs in French, Italian, Spanish, English, Polish and Greek. The concerts were an opportunity to promote the presence of the Latin Catholic Community in Cyprus and are a reminder of the European traditions and identity which the Latins

brought with them to Cyprus. The performances took place in Nicosia and Limassol.

2023- The Latin “St. Mary’s School” in Limassol celebrated 100 years of operation. In view of this event, the Representative of the Latin religious group organized for the editing and publication by the PIO of a book called “100 Years of History from Terra Santa to St. Mary’s School of Lemesos (1923-2023)” which was researched and written by Dr. Salomi Papadima Sofocleous.

-Office of the Representative of the Maronite Religious Group:

2020 - Maronite Art Exhibition: In February 2020, before the outbreak of the pandemic, the Office of the Maronite Representative, thanks to the support of the Department of Modern and Contemporary Culture, organized the first Maronite Art Exhibition which took place at Kasteliotissa Hall in Nicosia. The two-day exhibition gave the opportunity to several Maronite artists (painters, sculptors, photographers, etc.) to exhibit their works, as well as to many members of the community to enjoy them.

2022 - In May 2022, the Avant-Premiere of the documentary of Carmen Labaki, ‘The Cypriot Maronites’, took place at K-CINEPLEX cinemas in Nicosia, in an event organized by the Office of the Maronite Representative. The work of Mrs. Labaki was supported by the Maronite Representative and the outcome was outstanding. The documentary mainly concerns the daily lives of the Maronites of Cyprus, before and after the Turkish invasion of 1974 and how they are coping until today with the tragic consequences of the invasion and their dispersion all over the island. The avant-premiere was attended by more than 200 people, among them members of the Maronite religious group, government officials, MP’s and ambassadors.

2022- Publication and presentation of the book ‘Agia Marina, the memories give hope’: The book was published by the Association of Agia Marina Skyllouras ‘Epistrofi’ (‘Return’) and a presentation event was organized in November 2022 in Nicosia. The members of the association worked hard in order to publish a book dedicated to the

occupied Maronite village of Agia Marina Skyllouras, in order to strengthen the desire to return to their beloved village and at the same time to teach the younger generations about the culture, life, history, customs and traditions of their village, before the tragic events of 1974. The book includes testimonies of village inhabitants, rare photographic material, as well as information concerning daily customs, events etc. The book was presented in an event attended by many members of the Maronite religious group.

PART II – Measures taken to improve the implementation of the Framework Convention and implement fifth cycle recommendations

Recommendations for immediate action:

implement the authorities' commitment to include the option of 'multiple affiliation' in the 2021 census and ensure that relevant State officials and interviewees themselves are made aware of this option and that questions on ethnic and religious affiliation remain non mandatory and open ended;

30. The first recommendation for immediate action has been implemented. More specifically, the option of "multiple affiliation" was included in the 2021 census questionnaire. The state officials responsible for the completion of the questionnaire, as well as the interviewees became aware of this option, while the latter, were pointed out that the questions on ethnic and religious affiliation were non-mandatory and open-ended (as per paragraphs 12 and 54 of the 'Fifth Opinion on Cyprus'). The CYSTAT collects data on the ethnic group of the respondent in the context of the decennial population censuses. CYSTAT also collects gender disaggregated data in the context of the decennial censuses. Furthermore, CYSTAT conducts on an annual or an ad-hoc basis several social surveys collecting personal level data that are disaggregated by gender. A publication on Gender Statistics, that will be revised and enriched annually, was disseminated on CYSTAT's website in May 2023.³ The publication is currently available in Greek only, but shortly an English translation will also be available.

³ Available at: https://library.cystat.gov.cy/NEW/GENDER_STATISTICS-2023-EL-140623.pdf

31. Also, see Part III of this Report –“Specific questions regarding the 2021 Census of Population and Housing”.

ensure that complaints related to discriminatory treatment, including those submitted by, or on behalf of, persons belonging to religious and ethnic communities, are examined and dealt with by the Ombudsperson’s Office in a reasonable time, inter alia through ex officio investigations conducted within its mandate, and that decisions are enforced by the public authorities;

32. All members of the religious groups of Cyprus have access to the Office of the Commissioner for Administration and Human Rights (hereinafter referred to “the Commissioner”) and their complaints are examined in an adequate and prompt manner. Within the framework of the competences of the Commissioner, and, in particular, within his/her mandates as the national Equality Body and as a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI), one of his/her main areas of activities is the promotion of the principles of equality and non-discrimination, with respect to the enjoyment of fundamental freedoms and human rights.

33. In April 2021, the Commissioner issued a public Statement related to freedom of religion. The statement aimed to remind and underline the need to respect the right of religious freedom which includes ensuring and supporting the free expression of all religious beliefs, in the Republic of Cyprus in the light of the Constitution (Articles 1-5) which refers to both the Greek and Turkish Communities and the religious groups.

34. In December 2020, after the Commissioner’s *ex-officio* research to record the daily needs of the Cyprus Roma, the Commissioner obtained the views and opinions of the competent authorities (Social Welfare Services, the MoESY, the Turkish Cypriot Property Management Service), as well as the views of the non-governmental organisation CypROM. An on-site visit was also made to areas where Cyprus Roma live and the relevant legal framework was studied.

35. The Commissioner's recommendations were submitted to all competent services, and they were taken into consideration when drafting the National Strategic Framework for the Equality, Inclusion and Participation of the Roma 2021-2023".

further increase financial support for teacher training in Armenian and Cypriot Maronite Arabic; support the teaching of Armenian at upper secondary level; and consider creating a department for the Armenian language at university;

36. The MoESY, encourages, facilitates, and fully subsidizes the organisation of training seminars of Armenian language teachers, employed at the Armenian Nareg Schools. The Armenian Schools Committee in collaboration with the principal of the schools and the MoESY, organized school - based teacher training and professional development, for the Armenian teachers. During the period of 2020 to 2023 teacher trainings were scheduled twice a year. One session occurred per term, each with a duration of one week, at the Nareg Armenian Schools (Kindergarten, Primary and Gymnasium in three towns (Nicosia, Larnaca and Limassol). After the session that took place between September 23rd, to September 27th 2019, teacher training activities were disrupted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Trainings resumed in November 2021 and have since taken place on the following dates, with trainers arriving from Lebanon and Armenia:

15-19 November 2021

23-27 May 2022

5-9 December 2022

8-12 May 2023.

37. The Armenian language is being taught in upper secondary education since September 2021, following a Decision of the Council of Ministers⁴, in one Lyceum in Nicosia, where a significant number of pupils that belong in the Armenian religious group is enrolled. Since September 2021 the scheme of work for this course is being prepared. The philosophy, the aim, the

⁴ 2/9/21 available at [http://www.cm.gov.cy/cm/cm.nsf/All/7A4DAA347CAAD4E1C225879C0030EC70/\\$file/91.791.pdf?OpenElement](http://www.cm.gov.cy/cm/cm.nsf/All/7A4DAA347CAAD4E1C225879C0030EC70/$file/91.791.pdf?OpenElement)

methodology, the assessment of the course, as well as the syllabus, the themes, the indicators of adequacy and the indicators of success had been written. The program includes teaching Armenian language and literature in all three grades of Lyceum for 3.5 teaching periods in Class A', while in classes B' and C', the subject is taught for 4 teaching periods. The course requirements include examinations based on the syllabus taught and all pupils who opt for it are exempt from Religious Studies and French. The teaching of the course was assigned to an Armenian language and literature teacher of Armenian descent.

38. Professional development courses were organized by the inspectors of Secondary General Education. The teacher of the Armenian language participated in the school year 2021-2022, 2022-2023 and in the current school year 2023-2024, in teacher professional development, seminars and pedagogy meetings at schools of secondary education.

39. Teacher training of teachers of Cyprus Maronite Arabic (CMA) has been one of the main goals set for the MoESY in cooperation with the Office of the Representative of the Maronites in the House of Representatives. Teacher training occurs once a year, before the Annual Summer Language Camp in occupied Kormakitis. Teacher training is organized by the University of Cyprus and it is fully subsidized by the MoESY.

40. Due to covid 19 pandemic, MoESY decided not to run the summer camps for children at the end of 2019-2020 school year. Following a proposal from the research team of MoESY the Annual Summer Language Camp was offered on line using the platform Moodle. The e-Kkamp took place on-line in August 2020. Educators and teachers of CMA were trained on distance learning and digital tools through an online teacher training course, designed by the University of Cyprus.

41. In 2021, the Annual Summer Language Camp in occupied Kormakitis was not offered due to restrictions imposed by the occupation regime in relation to the covid 19 pandemic.

42. The Annual Summer Language Camp in occupied Kormakitis was held again during the summer of 2022. The University of Cyprus organized a training seminar for the teachers that participate in the Camp. The seminar aimed to offer native speakers or speakers with a good knowledge of CMA, the necessary background knowledge in language teaching and pedagogy to help them fulfil their duties as CMA teachers for children and youth during the Camp. The content of the training concerned the following sections:

- Teaching an endangered language.
- Description and analysis of CMA structural properties, orthographic rules, standardization of writing.
- Teaching methodology and didactics, language teaching and technology.

43. Furthermore, the Annual Summer Language Camp was held in the summer of 2023 in “Kormakitis Centre for Cooperation” in occupied Kormakitis. The University of Cyprus organized a training seminar for the teachers that participate in the Camp. The contents of the seminar were organised according to the following three sections:

- Basic issues related to the process of teaching and learning an endangered language.
- Description and analysis of CMA structural properties and orthographic rules.
- Teaching Methodology and didactics, language teaching and technology.

44. The MoESY in close cooperation and consultation with the Representative of the Maronites in the House of the Representatives and the research team of the MoESY responsible for the revitalization of CMA is examining the possibility of introducing a new scheme for further training of teachers of CMA.

45. The promotion of study and research of Armenian history, culture and language at the University of Cyprus is promoted in other ways but the creation of a separate department:

MoESY in cooperation with the Representative of the Armenian and the Latin religious group launched a new project in 2023, called KARMELA⁵. This project

⁵ KARMELA project is also applied for the Latin Religious Group.

is submitted by the University of Cyprus through the Cyprus Research Centre of the MoESY and it is supervised by Professor Marilena Karyolemou of the Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies of the University of Cyprus. The main objective of this research project concerns the creation of an Archive of Oral Tradition with digitized audio-visual material collected through individual interviews with members of the Armenian and the Latin religious group.

46. The data collected aims to describe the life and experiences of the community for the past century or so by collecting information on culture, religion, traditions, history, as well as language and language practices.

The research is to be completed in two parts: in the first part, the choice of interviewees took place with the help of the office of the Armenian and the Latin Representative in the House of Representatives; interviews are conducted according to a thematic protocol on general and specific topics and, finally, the initial processing of collected data –including the thematic transcription, detailed summaries, meta data, in addition to creating short videos on various aspects of the community. In the second part, selected data concerning various cultural aspects of the community will be analyzed and processed with the aim to make them available and accessible to the academia, the general public and the Armenians and the Latins themselves.

47. The creation of an Archive of Oral Tradition for the Armenian and the Latin religious group of Cyprus complements the Archive of Oral Tradition for CMA established by the MoESY since 2013 as part of the revitalization of CMA. At the same time when the Archive will be finalized, it will constitute the main source of information for the Armenian religious group and, in addition to the oral data, it will also contain other material, ex. bibliography, teaching material, language resources, etc.

48. A kick-off meeting to present the KARMELA project in the form of a press conference was held by the MoESY on February 2023 on the premises of the MoESY in the presence of the Minister of Education, Sport and Youth, the Representatives of the Armenian and Latin religious groups in the House of Representatives, the Representative of the European Commission in Cyprus,

the Presidential Commissioner, representatives of the University of Cyprus, researchers, academics, a significant number of members of the two Religious Groups and journalists. The event was broadcasted by CyBC and other private media. A press release was published by the PIO⁶. The KARMELA project was also presented on CyBC radio.

49. The MoESY in collaboration with the Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies of the University of Cyprus have launched a school competition for the creation of logos for the Archive of Oral Tradition for CMA and the KARMELA Archive during 2023-2024 school year. The competition was meant to raise awareness about the Armenian, Latin and Maronite Religious Groups history and culture and incite pupils to make a creative representation of them.

50. Although the Department of History and Archaeology of the University of Cyprus does not offer specialized courses on Armenia, there are references on the Armenians of the Diaspora and/or the Armenian community of Cyprus. A reference is made to the commercial Armenian diaspora and a brief reference to the Armenian revolutionary movement in the beginning of the 20th century. Lastly, in the module 'Modern Greek and Cypriot History: History of Cyprus (1878-1974)', references are made to the different phases of the Armenian immigration to Cyprus between 1915-1922, the establishment and the activity of the MEI, the Armenian presence in Cyprus during the British rule, and the Armenian neighborhood in 'Victorias' street. In the respective module for the Cyprus Constitution of 1960 reference is made to the religious group of the Armenians and their parliamentary representation.

51. At the Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, Western Armenian is presented in the course Minority Languages of Eastern Mediterranean, as a case point for the category of Diasporic minority languages, with extensive reference to the history and current sociolinguistic situation of the Armenian communities of the diaspora in Eastern Mediterranean countries and beyond.

⁶<https://www.pio.gov.cy/%CE%B1%CE%BD%CE%B1%CE%BA%CE%BF%CE%B9%CE%BD%CF%89%CE%B8%CE%AD%CE%BD%CF%84%CE%B1-%CE%AC%CF%81%CE%B8%CF%81%CE%BF.html?id=33132#flat>

develop, in close consultation with Roma representatives, organisations and other relevant civil society actors, a detailed action plan for the social inclusion of Roma and their overall participation in socioeconomic life, with clear indicators, timetables, distribution of tasks and budgetary allocations, with a view to improving in particular their living and housing conditions and developing tailor-made training programs to promote the employment of Roma.

52. In line with the constitution of the Republic of Cyprus, Cyprus Roma are deemed to be members of the Turkish Cypriot Community. The information under this Part is given subject to paragraph 5 above of the present Report.

53. The Social Welfare Services (SWS) of the Deputy Ministry of Social Welfare have been designated through a Council of Ministers Decision as the national contact point for the coordination of the measures on Cyprus Roma integration in accordance with the EU Framework on the Integration of Roma. In 2021, the Social Welfare Services submitted to the European Commission the "National Strategic Framework for the Equality, Inclusion and Participation of Cyprus Roma 2021-2030" which was prepared in collaboration with all competent Ministries/Services and approved by the Council of Ministers on 13/12/2021. The National Roma Strategic Framework sets horizontal goals that ensure equality, inclusion and participation of Cyprus Roma in society. These goals concern 5 thematic sections, education, employment, housing, health and social support.

54. Regarding implemented housing policies for Cyprus Roma, the vast majority of Cyprus Roma families reside in houses owned by Turkish Cypriots, which were granted to them by the Turkish Cypriot Management Service, (TCM). The houses are being repaired by the TCM Service. A small number of Cyprus Roma families reside in prefabricated houses in Polemidia which are equipped with all basic amenities. The same housing project that was developed in Paphos area, has been abandoned.

55. An important horizontal investment undertaken by the Republic of Cyprus, through which all vulnerable people will benefit, including Cyprus

Roma, is the establishment of the Deputy Ministry of Social Welfare, which was established by a relevant legislation in May 2021[L.89(I)/2021] and entered into force in July 2021. The aim of the establishment of the Deputy Ministry is to strengthen social welfare services and to address the social problems faced by the citizens of the Republic of Cyprus, as well as to upgrade social services provided to citizens.

56. The Deputy Ministry of Social Welfare, undertook the preparation of the National Child Guarantee Action Plan which was submitted to the EU in November 2022. The Action Plan includes reference regarding the Cyprus Roma children.

Further recommendations:

[ensure full implementation of the right to free self-identification, as protected by the Framework Convention and other international instruments;](#)

57. The right to free self-identification was implemented in the 2021 Population Census in the open-ended questions relating to ethnic and religious affiliation which were nevertheless non-mandatory, as explained in par.30 of this Report.

[further support Greek language programs for non-Greek-speaking residents and introduce literacy classes for Roma adults free of charge;](#)

58. The State Institutes for Further Education, beyond their educational role, aim at accomplishing social work by offering scholarships to vulnerable groups of pupils/ parents, guardians who fulfil special educational, social and economic criteria. In this context Greek literacy classes were introduced for Cyprus Roma Adults, free of charge, since the academic year 2020-2021, in order to encourage the participation of Cyprus Roma parents and guardians into their children's education.

ensure that the right to education is guaranteed for all children belonging to national minorities and vulnerable groups such as Roma, including by enforcing compulsory school attendance until the age of 15, in order to further reduce school absenteeism and early dropouts, in particular among Roma children; to this end, commission an independent gender-sensitive study to assess the root causes of absenteeism and early school dropouts, involving members of the Roma communities and the competent authorities;

59. Regarding the above recommendation please refer to par. 70 of the previous Report.

60. Regarding the first part of the above recommendation please see par. 35, 39 of the previous Report.

61. The Armenian language is taught in upper secondary level since September of 2021, ensuring the right of Armenian pupils to continue learning Armenian in Lyceum. (Please also refer to par.37 of the present Report).

62. Following the recommendation on the fifth opinion of the Advisory Committee on Cyprus (para. 178), language lessons of 45 minutes were provided in a public primary school in Paphos once a week. The lessons were fully subsidised by MoESY. During the school years, 2020-21 and 2021-22 classes were divided according to three age groups [5-8, 9-12 and 13-20]. The classes were interrupted during the Covid-19 quarantine periods (March – May 2021 and January – March 2022). Lessons in Paphos resumed at the start of the 2022-23 school year for two groups of students. Lessons continue during 2023-2024. The number of pupils attending Armenian lessons in Paphos were as follows:

| Academic year | 5-8 year old | 9–12 year old | 13-20 year old |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| 2020-2021 | 4 | 5 | 4 |
| 2021-2022 | 2 | 6 | 5 |
| | 5-10 year old | 10+ | |

| | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| 2022-2023 | 4 | 7 |
| 2023-2024 | 5 | 8 |

63. Agios Maronas Primary School operates as an optional all-day school. CMA continues to be taught as an optional course during the afternoon timetable in the primary school. Since, 2022-2023 school year CMA is also taught as an optional course during the afternoon timetable in the pre-primary school. In 2021 a new textbook⁷ was produced by the research team of MoESY and published by the Pedagogical Institute of the MoESY, that supports the teaching of CMA to pupils of Agios Maronas, who attend the above mentioned courses. The new book that was designed according to the guidelines of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFRL), took into consideration the specificities of an endangered language of oral tradition. The book refers to cultural elements of the Maronite religious group. In addition, the textbooks for children and adults at A2 level of the CEFRL, will be prepared during 2024 and an illustrated story book with narratives from the Archive of Oral Tradition for CMA.

64. Agios Maronas Primary School follows the existing curriculum used in all public schools that includes specific attainment and adequacy indicators in all subjects. At the same time, the curriculum in History, Religious Education and Geography was enriched with content of specific interest to Maronites to cover aspects of the Maronite catholic religion, the history and culture of the Maronite community, for grades 1-6. Based on the new enriched curriculum, upon the guidance of the Cyprus Pedagogical Institute, the development in writing of new teaching material has started during the school year 2021-2022. Four units were written related to Religious Education by two teachers of Agios Maronas Primary School, which are available online, on the webpage of the MoESY⁸.

⁷ Sanna level 1'

⁸Available at:

https://archeia.moec.gov.cy/sd/40/maronitiki_koinotita_arxi_me_efxes_enotita_1_sel_09_27.pdf

https://archeia.moec.gov.cy/sd/239/maronitiki_koinotita_giortazoume_pascha_enotita_4_sel_55_71.pdf

https://archeia.moec.gov.cy/sd/42/maronitiki_koinotita_giortazoume_xristougenna_enotita_2_sel_28_37.pdf

65. Following a request by the Representative of the Maronites in the House of Representatives and through targeted efforts and actions initiated by the Office of the Presidential Commissioner, in close cooperation with MoESY, the necessary procedures have been completed in order to ensure the operation of the Pre-primary and Primary school in occupied Kormakitis, in the premises of the occupied Kormakitis Centre for Cooperation. Following a Council of Ministers Decision in July 2023, two teachers were appointed, one for the pre-primary and the other for the primary school. Unfortunately, the occupation regime did not allow these teachers to take on their duties and the school remains closed. The reopening of occupied Kormakitis Pre-primary and Primary school is expected to meet the educational needs of the Maronite children that permanently reside in the village with their families, through the Re-establishment Scheme of the Ministry of Labor of the Republic of Cyprus.

66. Schools of Secondary General Education take all the necessary actions in order to enforce compulsory school attendance until the age of 15, and reduce school absenteeism and early dropouts of at risk students especially those coming from disadvantaged groups including Cyprus Roma pupils. In each school, in compliance with legislation and secondary school regulations, a team that includes members of the school administration, the school's counselor, other teachers and parents /guardians intervene in a systematic way, in order to support students who are at risk of dropping out prior to completing 15 years of age. If needed, students are also being referred to the school psychologist and/or the Social Welfare Services.

Pupils between the ages of fifteen and sixteen who have dropped out of formal education programs before completing their compulsory education(lower secondary education) have the opportunity to attend the Preparatory Apprenticeship program. This program offers either one or two year entirely school -based program of study, depending on the academic needs and level of the pupils, aiming to help them develop interpersonal and social skills, as well as strengthen their literacy, numeracy and ICT skills, through using a variety of pedagogical approaches not usually implemented in the formal school

https://archeia.moec.gov.cy/sd/241/maronitiki_koinotita_oi_agioi_ton_maroniton_enotita_3_se_l_38_54.pdf

system. Pupils of the Preparatory Apprenticeship have the opportunity to explore their talents and abilities through creative arts, and to take part in workshops related to technical occupations, such as carpentry, plumbing and mechanics. Pupils also receive individual counselling from psychologists, according to their needs. Pupils who complete Preparatory Apprenticeship (EQF level 2) may proceed to the Core Apprenticeship level (EQF level 3) or, if they wish, or provided they succeed in a special set of exams, they may re-enter the formal education system and pursue further studies.

67. Regarding the second part of the above recommendation Secondary General Education has undertaken a project for seeking comprehensive strategies and policies to combat the issue of dropouts and student disengagement. The project was undertaken by DG Reform of the European Commission . The new TSI project has Kicked-off on December 2022 and it is expected to be concluded in March 2024.

further invest, with adequate and structural State funding along with external donors, in the inclusion of Roma children in the educational system and increase financial support for Maronite and Latin students in private secondary schools;

68. In line with the constitution of the Republic of Cyprus, Cyprus Roma are deemed to be members of the Turkish Cypriot Community. The information under this Part is given subject to paragraph 5 above of the present Report.

69. Regarding the first part of the above recommendation, MoESY takes several measures to cater for their needs of Cyprus Roma children focusing on Schools with Cyprus Roma Population, more specifically Agios Antonios Primary School and Agios Antonios Secondary School in Limassol:

The Department of Primary Education implements the following measures:

- Teaching the Kurbetcha dialect of Roma origin. The teaching activities are implemented during the afternoon program of the school.
- Special support teaching, through the European co-funded program 'School and Social Inclusion Actions+', with the provision for an assistant

class teacher, promoting the learning process (10 teaching periods per week).

- Upgrading of the teaching of Turkish language for Cyprus Roma children.
- Implementation of a special project which focused on working with Cyprus Roma families. The seminars were designed to convince parents to enroll their children in school.
- Implementation of an in-service program for the school staff which concerned training on how to embrace diversity and promote tolerance in their school.
- Increased time for teaching Greek as a second language and provision for appropriate educational material through the implementation of a new policy for teaching Greek as a second language. The teaching periods per week have been increased, in order to be in line with the Common European Framework of Reference for languages, for completing A1 and A2 levels of competence.
- Participation in the all-day optional school and provision for free meals.
- The school unit is also implementing projects, that involve all children, where the diversity of each separate group of children, including the Cyprus Roma, is respected. Such activities are the video recording of poems, songs and other cultural elements, the organisation of food festivals from children's different countries and the celebration of the International Roma Day in various ways, such as presentations, dances and songs.

The department of Secondary Education is implementing various measures to ensure access to education for Cyprus Roma pupils.

- Employment of a Turkish Cypriot teacher who taught Turkish language 6 periods per week, History, Muslim religion and other social issues.
- Employment of a bilingual teacher in order to overcome the linguistic barrier arising from the low proficiency in the Greek language. Turkish Cypriot/Cyprus Roma children attended Greek language lessons 6 periods per week. It is important to stress that Greek was taught as a second language and following the different level of attainment in Greek ('Ellinomatheia') a differentiated instruction was employed during the

lessons. The teacher also helped students improve academic achievement in other lessons of the curriculum.

- Special support teaching, through the European co-funded program "School and Social Inclusion Actions+", with the provision for an assistant class teacher, promoting the learning process. Moreover, Cooking, graffiti, athletic events and other activities are organised both in morning and afternoon hours.
- Active participation of Cyprus Roma pupils in various school events (anti-racist events, school conferences, extra curriculum activities).
- Regular Visits to the mosque of the region.
- Provision of access to a computer/ a tablet and internet at home, where storages in personal equipment and internet at home is reported.
- Provision of homeschool program to Cyprus Roma pupils at a high risk for school failure.
- Provision of free breakfast to Cyprus Roma pupils. The provision of free breakfast was implemented successfully during COVID-19.

70. Regarding the second part of the above recommendation the MoESY continues to subsidize the tuition fees for children belonging to religious groups and choose to attend private schools. The subsidy is higher for children belonging to the Maronite and Latin religious group and attend Saint Mary's School in Limassol and Terra Santa College in Nicosia (private schools), two schools that are considered to be "ethnic schools" for them (see paragraph 39 of the fifth report).

consider the establishment of a state institution, with a clear mandate, visibility and sufficient resources, to liaise with relevant entities and address effectively the needs of national minorities, Roma communities, as well as other groups not recognised under the constitution;

71. Non- Applicable.

extend the possibility to intervene on all issues to the representatives of the three religious' groups in the House of Representatives;

72. According to Cyprus Constitution, religious groups have a constitutional right to be represented at the Greek Communal Chamber through their elected representatives for each group. Under the Constitution the Greek Communal

Chamber and the Turkish Communal Chamber are afforded legislative and administrative functions/powers over limited subjects (religion, education and matters of personal status). Therefore the representation of religious groups does not cover all issues affecting them but rather all subjects previously under the functions/powers of the Greek Communal Chamber that relate directly or indirectly to the religious group .The legislative powers of the Greek Communal Chamber according to which the representation of the religious groups was based, was transferred by Law12/1965,according to the law of necessity, to the House of Representatives and the administrative powers were transferred to the Ministry of Education and the Council of Ministers. In 1970 a law was passed (L.58/1970) and adopted the same provisions of the law of 1965 in relation to the representation of the religious groups to the House of Representatives or to the administrative organs/bodies of the Republic. The elected member of the religious groups may express the views of the religious group that he or she represents and may appear before any organ or committee of the case for issues pertaining to the Greek community which were previously subject to the Greek Communal Chamber and concern the group he or she represents.

increase financial and human resources allocated to the bi-communal Multiservice Centre in Limassol which supports Roma families and carefully evaluate the impact of budgetary cuts for persons belonging to this community.

73. The Social Welfare Services, provide financial support to non-governmental organisations and local authorities for the development and implementation of programs, through the grants in aid scheme. Through this scheme, an amount of €6000 was provided to the bi-communal Multiservice Centre in Limassol, for 2023.

PART III – Specific questions regarding the 2021 Census of Population and Housing

'ensure full implementation of the right to free self-identification' was implemented in the 2021 Census of Population and Housing, particularly as regards the questions on ethnicity and religion (which were, nevertheless, non-mandatory).

74. Regarding paragraph 48 of the Opinion, the questions set provided the opportunity to answer regarding ethnic affiliation and language. The question was two-fold, asking which language the respondent speaks fluently and secondly, what the respondent's native language is.

Regarding paragraph 50 of the Opinion, the questions on ethnicity and religion were non-mandatory and open-ended.

Regarding paragraph 51 of the Opinion, two separate entries for the Cyprus Roma were included in the 2021 Census questionnaire, i.e., "Roma/Gurbeti" and "Roma (Christian Orthodox)".

Regarding paragraph 53 of the Opinion, the questionnaire was translated in six languages in order to override any language barriers.

75. Regarding the data collected from the 2021 Census of Population and Housing, currently, the 2021 census data are in the process of being validated and analyzed. In accordance with the Regulation (EC) No. 763/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 July 2008 on population and housing censuses, the deadline for transmitting the final census data to Eurostat is the 31st of March 2024.

PART V

Additional comments on measures and policies adopted to implement all the detailed recommendations, following Articles 2-17 of the Framework Convention and Recommendations of the Fifth Opinion on Cyprus

Article 3 of the Framework Convention

Scope of application

(Re par. 36 of the Opinion)

76. Please See Part I – Measures taken to raise awareness of the results of the fifth monitoring cycle and of the Framework Convention, paragraphs 7-29.

Right to self-identification

(Re par. 44 of the Opinion)

77. Please see par. 57 of the present Report.

Data collection through population census

(Re par. 54 of the Opinion)

78. Please see paragraphs 30-31 of the present Report.

(Re par. 55 of the Opinion)

79. The CYPSTAT has taken into consideration all the recommendations of the Advisory Committee pertaining to the 2021 Census of Population and Housing Questionnaire. The questions on ethnicity (with response categories "Greek - Cypriots", "Armenians", "Maronites", "Latins" and "Turkish-Cypriots") and religion have been comprising part of the Census questionnaire since the 1960 Census. In the 2021 Census, the question on ethnicity was addressed to the entire population ,whereas, before it was addressed only to persons with Cypriot citizenship and the number of response categories was enriched to include 26 categories,plus the open-ended response category "Other(specify)".

Article 4 of the Framework Convention

Legal and institutional framework for combating discrimination

(Re par. 66 of the Opinion)

80. Please refer to paragraphs 32- 35 of the present Report.

(Re par. 67-68 of the Opinion)

81. The Commissioner's Office is responsible for processing complaints and carrying out investigations and reports from individuals, NGOS or other representatives.

82. The Commissioner's Office was re-accredited by the Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) of the GANHRI with status A, confirming that the Institution is in full compliance with the Paris Principles, in October 2022. This re-accreditation recognizes the Institution's continuous work for the promotion and protection of human rights, such as awareness raising campaigns, events, trainings, engagement with civil society, issuance of public statements etc.

83. In August, 2023 the Commissioner's Office recruited seven additional officers.

84. The Commissioner is also assigned as the Equality Body in Cyprus. The mandate of the Commissioner is provided for in the legislation.

85. The Law on Equal Treatment in Employment and Labour (L.58(I)/2004) provides that any person who considers that he/she is affected by violation of this Law in relation to discrimination in employment, has the right to submit a relevant complaint to the Commissioner who has the authority to examine this complaint as an Equality Body. The Commissioner may participate as amicus curiae, in court proceedings acting as an expert for a specific subject-matter.

Article 5

Support for the preservation and development of minority identities, languages and cultures

(Re par. 75 of the Opinion)

86. Please refer to paragraph 29 of the present Report.

87. MoESY in cooperation with the representatives of the religious groups in the House of Representatives, offer lessons at the Adult Education Centers. Language lessons are offered free of charge. Since the school year 2019-2020, the Adult Education Centers have offered the following subjects:

| Groups | School year 2019-2020 | School year 2020- 2021 | School year 2021-2022 | School year 2022-2023 | School year 2023-2024 |
|--|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Armenian language | 2 groups (7 members) | 1 group (6 members) | 1 group (5 members) | - | 7 |
| Cyprus Maronite Arabic language | 5 groups (51 members) | 3 groups (24 members) | 3 groups (25 members) | - | - |
| Armenian cuisine | - | - | - | 1 group (7 members) | - |
| Armenian Traditional Dances | | | | 1 group (10 members) | 1 group (10 members) |

(Re par. 82 of the Opinion)

88. Please refer to par. 10, 29 regarding the allocation of funds for the support of Cultural Activities of Religious Groups, by the Deputy Ministry of Culture.

89. Please refer to par. 22- 27 regarding the allocation of funds for the support of publications for the religious groups.

90. Regarding the allocation of funds for the requests and needs of the religious groups, MoESY has an earmarked budget exclusively for them. Please refer to paragraphs 35, 38, 39 of the previous Report. Moreover, the MoESY continues to subsidize the operation of the “House of the Latins”.

(Re par.83 of the Opinion)

91. Non-applicable.

(Re par. 88 of the Opinion)

92. Please refer to paragraph 13 of the present Report.

(Re par. 91 of the Opinion)

93. The MoESY continues to subsidize the operation of the “House of the Latins”. Following a request by the Representative of the Latins in the House of Representatives, the subsidy will increase from 2024 and onwards.

94. The award ceremonies of two Pancyprian Competitions that were launched by the MoESY, in close collaboration with the Representative of the Latin religious group in the House of Representatives, took place in the “House of Latins”. The two competitions (2021-2022, 2022-2023 school years) were addressed to all public and private schools of primary and secondary education, gave the opportunity to a significant number of pupils to raise awareness about the Latin religious group and to visit the House of Latins.

(Re par. 92 of the Opinion)

95. The MoESY continues the effort for the preservation and promotion of CMA, allocating every year a significant amount to support the scientific work carried out by the researchers, in accordance with the Action Plan for the revitalization

of CMA and the decisions of the relevant Committee of Experts. The research is now in its 11th phase since a new action plan was launched for the period 2021-2023.

96. The Professor of Linguistics at the University of Cyprus and Scientific Supervisor of the Project on the Creation of an Archive of Oral Tradition for CMA, Dr. Marilena Karyolemou, continues to give lectures, interviews and presentations on CMA both in Cyprus and abroad. Several publications based on the results on the analysis and revitalisation of CMA appeared in collective books and scientific journals. All these activities increase the visibility of the language, promote the scientific study of CMA and the identity of the Maronite religious group.

Article 6 of the Framework Convention

Tolerance and intercultural dialogue

(Re par. 99 of the Opinion)

97. Agios Maronas Primary School in cooperation with the Nareg Armenian Schools, organizes several intercultural activities and events on an annual basis, in order to promote diversity, regional or minority languages, identities and cultures. In this context the school organized the following events/ projects during the following school years:

- In 2019-2020, the event titled ‘Meeting along the bridge’ took place with the participation of Nareg Armenian Schools. The project aimed at exploring how to communicate and work together with different groups of people and unique individuals.
- In 2020-2021 and due to covid 19 pandemic the project ‘We smile...we create’ was effected through the platform Microsoft Teams. Nareg Armenian Schools participated in the project. The project focused on ways of wellbeing through being active, learning and communication.
- In 2021-2022 the cultural event "Cultural routes" took place with the cooperation of Nareg Armenian Primary School and the Primary School of Evrichou. The pupils observed a fragment of a fresco in an ancient church in occupied Kormakitis, the Armenian churches and two carriages of the Cyprus

Railway respectively and made relevant presentations. Anna Marangou, a historian and archaeologist, gave a lecture on the discovery.

- In 2022-2023 and during the celebrations for the 20 years of Agios Maronas Primary School and the 50 years of Nareg Armenian Schools, the pupils of both schools to promote their cooperation created an art work. The art display, that was funded by the MoESY, was installed at the theatre of Agios Maronas in 2003.

- In 2022-2023, the project called 'Museumschool', was effected between the Evrichou Primary School, B Makedonitissa Primary School and Nareg Armenian Primary School. The pupils had the opportunity to present the history of their respective schools and interact in playing traditional games and theatre.

98. Pupils of Armenian descent that attend the Armenian language learning program in upper Secondary Education, actively participated in a school event dedicated to the Armenian language on the occasion of the International Mother Language Day in 2022. The goal of the activity was to support and empower the Armenian language in the school. The Armenian Representative in the House of Representatives, other important figures from the Armenian community as well as representatives from the MoESY visited the school and watched the event. The event was also attended by pupils from Dasoupolis Lyceum to whom Armenian pupils and classmates presented their language, pieces of Armenian literature, and their own poems in their mother tongue. During the event the documentary "Remembrance: Our Mere Heritage" was screened with subtitles in the Armenian Language.

(Re par. 104 of the Opinion)

99. Please refer to par. 28 of the present Report.

Policing and respect for human rights

(Re par. 110 of the Opinion)

100. In the context of further upgrading the training and education of police officers and developing a culture with respect of human rights, several

programs of the Cyprus Police Academy concern Human Rights. Additionally, police training focuses on harmonizing police culture mentality with the new multicultural environment of the Cyprus society. In this respect, emphasis is placed on building and maintaining a positive approach by Police members towards all persons, regardless of their culture, customs, religion, sexual orientation and place of origin.

101. In addition to the above, Cyprus Police has created an additional module for police recruits, in cooperation with the University of Cyprus, on Human Rights and Policing, offered at the University of Cyprus. Cyprus Police Academy also provides lectures on human rights at all levels of Police training. Specifically, such lectures aim to educate Police constables of all ranks and are offered within the Programs for Police Recruits, at Advanced Courses such as the Sergeant Course, the Inspector Course and the Chief Inspector Course, as well as at specialized courses, such as the Basic and advanced Crime Investigation course, Courses for the members of Aliens and Immigration Unit.

102. In this regard, on 19/07/2022, a one-day training program was organized at the Cyprus Police Academy entitled 'Professional Approach of Cases of Racism and Discrimination'. The training was attended by approximately 18 members of the Police, who investigate cases of a racist nature. The aim of the program was to inform and raise awareness among the participants in handling and investigating racist offenses and hate crimes. In addition, the Cyprus Police organized a Conference on 11/10/2022, entitled 'The role of members of the Police in a society with respect to diversity'. The Conference was attended by approximately 40 members of the Police, who come into direct contact with citizens / investigate cases. The aim of the Conference was to raise awareness among the participants and to strengthen a culture of respect for equality and diversity.

103. Cyprus Police Academy in collaboration with the Human Rights and Combating Discrimination Office, offers the following lectures in its annual courses:

- Racial and other Discrimination – Legislation and Investigation which is included in Crime Investigation Programs (Basic & Advance),

- Racism, Xenophobia, Racial Discrimination, Characteristics of Religion and Investigation of Racial and Hate Crimes which are included in Seminars of Xenophobia and Racism – Respect of Human Rights and Diversity,
- Combating Racism, Discrimination and Xenophobia based on Multicultural Sensitivity which is included in the Community Policing program.

Article 8 of the Framework Convention

Religious education and the right to manifest one's belief

Re par. 131 of the Opinion

104. Please see par. 102 of this previous Report.

Article 9 of the Framework Convention

Minority printed media and broadcasting

Re par. 137 of the Opinion

105. The CyBC administration held meetings with the Representatives of the Religious Groups, during which the willingness of the management was expressed to broadcast on TV readily available programs that would be provided by the religious groups themselves. News-related reportages on the religious groups are included regularly in the CyBC's news, as well as special topics on the religious groups are included in general programs.

106. The content produced for the three religious groups by CyBC's Television and Radio Departments is uploaded on the website on Video and Audio on Demand and on the Mobile Application. The content is also live-streamed on the website and on the application.

107. CyBC Television stands by paragraph 133 of the Opinion, which states that they are willing to broadcast TV content of the religious groups, should they provide them with the relevant programming.

Please also refer to par. 28 of the present Report.

Article 10 of the Framework Convention
Use of minority and official languages

Re par. 146 of the Opinion

108. Please see paragraph 58 of the present Report.

Re par. 147 of the Opinion

109. Please see paragraph 105 of the previous Report.

110. If complaints are submitted by Turkish Cypriots to the Commissioner's Office the communication is in Turkish if they wish.

Article 12 of the Framework Convention
Teacher Training

Re par. 156 of the Opinion

111. Please see paragraphs 36-43 of the present Report.

Textbooks and teaching materials

Re par.163 of the Opinion

112. Please also refer to par. 63 of the present Report concerning textbooks for CMA.

113. Teaching material in Western Armenian in both Nareg Armenian schools and in upper Secondary Education (textbooks, workbooks, dictionaries, maps etc.) is imported mainly from publishers in Lebanon, Greece and the bookshop of the Western Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America. The MoESY subsidizes the purchase of Armenian language textbooks.

Re par.160 of the Opinion

114. Following the enrichment of curricula in the framework of the continuous Educational Reform for the Subject of History, in the 2021-22 school year, the MoESY proceeded to reform the curricula in secondary education. In this context, separate teaching periods for the religious groups of Cyprus were

included in the History course. According to the Analytical Study Program, their teaching is included in the planning of the 2nd class of Gymnasium and 2nd class of Lyceum. The pupils are asked to explain when and under what conditions the Armenians, Maronites and Latins appear and settle in Cyprus and to comment their contribution to the socio-economic and cultural development of Cyprus. In addition, the high school curriculum examines the change in the demographic composition of the religious groups from the time they settled in Cyprus until today, as well as the provisions of the Constitution for the religious groups of Cyprus, such as the election of a representative of each religious group in the House of Representatives, but also the rights of religious groups.

115. In order to familiarize the pupils with the history of the Latin community of Cyprus, more specifically with the Frankish Period of Cyprus (1192 - 1489), "Museovalitsa", that is a Museum Suitcase, entitled "Ekaterini Cornaro, the last Queen of Cyprus", was created after a partnership of the Directorate of Secondary Education of the MoESY and the Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia. This "Museum Suitcase" is a mobile museum that includes replicas of exhibits, such as a ring, a crown, a map, a dress, a cloth banner with the Lusignan coat of arms, a decorative pin, and is transported to all schools in Cyprus upon their request.

Equal access to education

Re par. 172 of the Opinion

116. Please refer to paragraphs 59-67 of the present Report.

Re par. 173 of the Opinion

117. Please refer to paragraphs 68-69 of the present Report.

Article 13 of the Framework Convention

Private educational and training establishments

Re par. 177 of the Opinion

118. Please refer to paragraph 70 of the present Report.

Re par.178 of the Opinion

119. Please refer to paragraph 62 of the present Report.

Article 14 of the Framework Convention
Teaching in and of minority languages

Re par. 187 of the Opinion

120. Please refer to paragraphs 37, 45-51 of the present Report.

Re par 188 of the Opinion

121. Please refer to paragraph 63 of the present Report regarding the teaching of CMA.

122. Students of Secondary Education participated in lessons organised by the Office of the Representative of the Maronites in the House of the Representatives at occupied Kormakitis, during school year 2021-2022. Moreover, students of Secondary Education participate in the annual Sanna Camp that is held in occupied Kormakitis. As from October 2020, an online course of CMA for students and young university graduates has been financed by the University of Cyprus. Since fall 2022, this course is taking place under the Language Centre of the University of Cyprus and is subsidized by the University of Cyprus.

Article 15 of the Framework Convention

Effective participation in public affairs and decision-making processes

Re par. 195 of the Opinion

123. Non-Applicable

Re par.196 of the Opinion

124. Please refer to paragraph 72 of the present Report

Effective participation in socio-economic life

Re par. 208 of the Opinion

125. Please refer to paragraphs 52-56 of the present Report

Re par.209 of the Opinion

123. Please refer to paragraph 73 of the present Report.

Article 18 of the Framework Convention

Bilateral and multilateral co-operation

Re par. 215 of the Opinion

124. During the school year 2021-2022 Agios Maronas Primary School participated in the 8th Panhellenic Student Competition "Cyprus, Greece, Diaspora: educational bridges". The school submitted a fiction film with the name "An angelic child, our memories unite..." and it was awarded the 1st prize. The film was the result of the cooperation and partnership of four schools, Agios Maronas Primary School in Cyprus, the 1st Primary School of Lykovrisi in Greece, the Greek School of St Andreas-Birmingham and the Greek School of St Andreas-Weston-super-Mare in the UK. The film aimed to highlight the timelessness of culture, in Cyprus, Greece and the UK. It was inspired by a discovery of a fragment of a fresco in the ruins of a church in the occupied Kormakitis. CMA was used during the film by the students of Agios Maronas Primary School, increasing thus, its visibility.⁹

125. The Nareg Armenian Primary Schools collaborated with schools in Beirut and France. During the academic years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 the students of the Nareg Primary school corresponded with students from Armenian schools in Beirut and France. The letters were written in Western Armenian, aiming to promote cooperation among young Armenians in the diaspora in their mother tongue.

126. Following an initiative of the Armenian Representative 30 displaced children aged 12 to 17 years old and three escorts from Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh) were accommodated in Cyprus for 12 days in December 2023. The children traveled all over Cyprus and met members of the Armenian Religious Group in Cyprus. The children visited Nareg Armenian Schools in Nicosia, Larnaca and Limassol and interacted with the Armenian students. They participated in Armenian language lessons and in Christmas celebrations. It is

⁹ available at <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=zh8FSvTPOQ8>

worth mentioning that the expenses for the visit of the Armenian displaced children were covered by the MoESY and the Armenian Representative.

127. Following a proposal of the Representative of the Latins in the House of Representatives after a request of the Vicar Patriarchal of the Latins in Cyprus, the MoESY partly subsidized the participation of 21 young people belonging to the Latin religious group in the World Youth Day 2023, that was held in Lisbon. Young people had the opportunity to have an encounter with different cultures, share moments of prayer and increase Christian faith with the blessing of Pope Francis.