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FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR THE
PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES**

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Sixth Report submitted by Germany

**Pursuant to Article 25, paragraph 2 of the Framework
Convention for the Protection of National Minorities –
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Sixth Report

of the Federal Republic of Germany

in accordance with Article 25 (2)

of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

2023

Germany's Sixth Report at a glance

By submitting its Sixth Report, the Federal Republic complies with its obligation under Article 25 (2) of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (Framework Convention) to provide the Council of Europe with comprehensive information on the measures taken to implement the Framework Convention.

The Framework Convention is Europe's first multilateral instrument to protect the rights of national minorities. It entered into force in Germany on 1 February 1998.

The national minorities legally recognised in Germany by the German Bundestag and Bundesrat are the Danish minority, the Frisian ethnic group, the German Sinti and Roma and the Sorbian people.

The Sixth Report was drawn up by the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (Bundesministerium des Innern und für Heimat; BMI) in cooperation with other federal ministries and the competent authorities of the federal states and with the participation of the associations of national minorities protected in Germany under the Framework Convention.

The report describes the developments in the measures taken by the Federal Government and the federal states at the political level, in the field of legislation and in practice, as well as information on their assessment with regard to the protection and promotion of national minorities in Germany during the reporting period from November 2018 to October 2023, and comments on the findings of the Advisory Committee which were published on 14 June 2022 in its evaluation of the implementation of the Framework Convention in the Federal Republic of Germany.

The most important developments in the reporting period include the following:

- Adoption of several **strategic and planning documents** by the state government of Brandenburg **to strengthen the use of the Lower Sorbian language** (C.I.4).
- **Establishment of the Foundation for the Frisian Ethnic Group in the Federal State of Schleswig-Holstein** (Friesenstiftung) and thus the creation of a guarantee

of perpetuity for long-term support for the Frisian ethnic group in Schleswig-Holstein (C.I.5).

- Conclusion of the **agreement between the Federal Government and the federal states to preserve the graves of Sinti and Roma** persecuted under the Nazi regime, and the conclusion and updating of **framework agreements and joint declarations** between several federal states and associations of German Sinti and Roma (C.I.1).
- **Strengthening of measures to combat antigypsyism** (C.I.2). This includes the work of the Independent Commission on Antigypsyism (Unabhängige Kommission Antiziganismus; UKA)(C.I.2.a); the establishment of the office of the Federal Government Commissioner for Antigypsyism and the establishment of first points of contact for Sinti and Roma or antigypsyism commissioners at state level (C.I.2.b); recognition by the Federal Government of the IHRA definition of antigypsyism (C.I.2.c); the Joint Declaration of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs (Kultusministerkonferenz; KMK) with the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma (Zentralrat Deutscher Sinti und Roma) and the Alliance for Solidarity with the Sinti and Roma of Europe (Bündnis für Solidarität mit den Sinti und Roma Europas) on teaching about the history and present-day lives of Sinti and Roma in schools (C.I.2.g); and the development of the Reporting and Information Office on Antigypsyism (Melde- und Informationsstelle Antiziganismus; MIA), which is a civil-society monitoring mechanism (C.I.2.h).
- Development of **measures by the Federal Government and the federal states to strengthen the fight against discrimination**, which also include the interests of the four national minorities recognised in Germany (D.II., D.IV.).
- Bill to **amend the law on married names and birth names**, which will allow the use of adapted forms of family names for the Sorbian people according to sex and will take into account the naming traditions of the Frisian ethnic group and the Danish minority (C.I.6, D.VII.1).
- **Expansion and consolidation of financial support** from the Federal Government and the federal states for national minorities (C.I.7).

The associations of the national minorities were invited to comment on the implementation status of the Framework Convention in section E of this report.

Table of Contents

A. Preliminary remarks	11
B. Updated geographic and demographic information.....	14
C. General developments	15
I. Changes to the overall framework.....	15
1. Framework agreements and state treaties between federal states and associations	15
2. Tackling antigypsyism.....	19
3. Conclusion of a German-Danish Action Plan	30
4. Adoption of state strategies to strengthen the Lower Sorbian language	31
5. Establishment of the Foundation for the Frisian Ethnic Group in the Federal State of Schleswig-Holstein (Friesenstiftung).....	31
6. Bill to amend the law on married names and birth names	32
7. Financial support for national minorities in Germany	33
II. Annual implementation conference	50
III. Brochure published by the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community	51
IV. Measures to disclose the results of the fifth monitoring cycle.....	51
D. The Advisory Committee's assessments	55
I. Article 3	55
1. Scope of application of the Framework Convention.....	55
2. Recognition as a national minority – Poles.....	56
3. Recognition as a national minority – Yenish.....	58
II. Article 4	59
1. Federal responsibility for the protection of national minorities.....	59
2. Legal framework for combating discrimination.....	63
3. Institutional framework for combating discrimination.....	70
4. Collection of equality data	83
5. Effective equality – specific measures for Sinti and Roma.....	86
III. Article 5	92
1. Promotion of national minority cultures	92

IV. Article 6	101
1. Tolerance and intercultural dialogue	101
2. Portrayal of Sinti and Roma in the media.....	128
3. Protection from hostility and violence	132
4. Law enforcement and respect for human rights.....	153
I. Article 9	173
1. National minorities in TV and radio broadcasting.....	173
2. Representation of national minorities in media regulatory bodies	179
II. Article 10	184
1. Use of minority languages in contact with administrative authorities	184
III. Article 11	189
1. Surnames in Sorbian	189
2. Topographical signs in minority languages.....	189
IV. Article 12	191
1. Education about national minorities	191
2. Equal access to education.....	199
V. Article 13	206
1. Teaching in Danish in private schools	206
VI. Article 14	207
1. Teaching of Danish in public schools	207
2. North Frisian teaching.....	213
3. Sater Frisian teaching.....	217
4. Sorbian teaching	218
5. Romani teaching.....	220
VII. Article 15	225
1. Participation in public affairs – consultative and elected bodies	225
2. Participation in public affairs – diversity within minorities	228
3. Socio-economic participation of Sorbs in Lusatia.....	232
VIII.....	Articles 17 and 18

1. Bilateral and cross-border relations.....	236
E. Comments by the associations.....	241
I. Comments by the Danish minority.....	242
II. Comments by the Frisian Council, northern office (Friesenrat Sektion Nord e.V.) 246	
III. Comments by the North Frisian Institute (Nordfriisk Instituut).....	249
IV. Comments by the Sater Frisian Association (Seelter Buund).....	253
V. Comments by the Domowina Federation of Lusatian Sorbs (Domowina – Bund Lausitzer Sorben e.V.).....	255
VI. Comments by the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma (Zentralrat Deutscher Sinti und Roma e.V.).....	260
VII. Comments by the Sinti Alliance of Germany (Sinti Allianz Deutschland e.V.) ...	277
F. Concluding remarks.....	284
Annex.....	285

A. Preliminary remarks

The Sixth Report of the Federal Republic of Germany in accordance with Article 25 (2) of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (Framework Convention) was prepared by the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community in cooperation with other federal ministries and the responsible state authorities, and in consultation with the associations of the national minorities in Germany protected by the Framework Convention.

The associations of the national minorities were invited to express their views on the implementation status of the Framework Convention in the Federal Republic of Germany, which are not necessarily in line with those of the authorities. The comments by the various associations can be found in section E of this report. In September 2023, an implementation conference was held to finalise the Sixth Report on the Framework Convention in digital form.

This report covers the period from November 2018 to October 2023.

The five reports of the Federal Republic of Germany which preceded this report are available on the website of the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community.¹ The aforementioned website also refers to the websites of the Council of Europe, where the opinions of the Advisory Committee and the Committee of Ministers following the reports and the replies of the Federal Government can be found in German and English.

Four officially recognised national minorities live in Germany: the Danish minority, the Frisian ethnic group, the German Sinti and Roma², and the Sorbian people.

¹ <https://www.bmi.bund.de/DE/themen/heimat-integration/gesellschaftlicher-zusammenhalt/minderheiten/minderheitenrecht/minderheitenrecht-node.html> (as at 10 October 2023)

² It should be noted that some German Sinti and Roma consider the two to be distinct ethnic groups. At European level, the Council of Europe and others use the term “Roma” collectively to refer to Sinti and Roma as well as other groups. The Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community has consciously decided against this practice. As a result, the term “Roma” used in some of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and the Committee of Ministers has been translated as “Sinti and Roma”

Additional background information on the officially recognised national minorities in Germany can be found on pages 3–12 of the First Report of the Federal Republic of Germany in accordance with Article 25 (2) of the Framework Convention.³

The following comments are made, in particular, on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, which were adopted by the Committee of Ministers. These comments are intended to describe the developments during the reporting period concerning the protection and promotion of the four national minorities officially recognised in Germany. The exclusive focus on these four national minorities in Germany corresponds to the scope of the Framework Convention based on its title and history as well as the wording of its individual provisions. The Framework Convention does not define the term “national minority”. It is instead the responsibility of the individual member states to define the various national minorities using objective criteria; the Federal Republic of Germany did this with its declaration at the signing of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities on 11 May 1995.

Only Article 6 of the Framework Convention states in very general terms that the Parties should “encourage a spirit of tolerance and intercultural dialogue” (paragraph 1) and “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” (paragraph 2). However, the use of these provisions should not ultimately lead to extending the scope of the Framework Convention to other groups, contrary to the limits expressed in the title and other provisions of the agreement.

The Advisory Committee’s assumption that the Framework Convention is a flexible instrument which is supposed to apply in highly diverse social, cultural and economic contexts and in evolving situations is incorrect. This is true not only of the overly broad interpretation of Article 6 of the Framework Convention, but also of the Advisory Committee’s request

³ https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/downloads/DE/veroeffentlichungen/themen/heimat-integration/minderheiten/1-erster-staatenbericht-rahmenuebereinkommen.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=4 (as at 10 October 2023)

that individual articles of the agreement be applied to specific groups of migrants, which, given the clear definition of national minorities in Germany, is legally unfounded.

The Framework Convention does not constitute a general human rights instrument for all population groups that differ from the majority population in one or more ways. Furthermore, the Council of Europe does not leave these groups unprotected: the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), founded by the Council of Europe's member states in 1993, is an institution exclusively dedicated to the fight against racism, xenophobia, antisemitism and intolerance in all of Europe on the basis of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). ECRI also fulfils this responsibility by producing country reports, publishing policy recommendations and cooperating with NGOs. It therefore constitutes the undoubtedly essential counterpart to the Framework Convention with regard to combating discrimination and racism.

As a general remark, it should be noted that, under Article 3 of the Framework Convention, people belonging to a national minority have the right to freely choose to be treated or not to be treated as such. Membership of a national minority is an individual personal decision and is neither registered, reviewed nor contested by the government authorities. For this reason, in Germany, no demographic and socio-economic data are collected based on ethnicity.

If there have been no changes to obligations already fulfilled within the reporting period, no new information is provided on this in the current report.

B. Updated geographic and demographic information

The geographic and demographic information changed in the reporting period as follows:

In July 2023, the Administrative Court of Cottbus/Chóšebuz (Verwaltungsgericht Cottbus/Chóšebuz) began hearings in the ten cases which had been pending since 2017 to find out whether municipalities or parts thereof belong to the traditional settlement area of the Sorbs and Wends in Brandenburg. The first judgments were delivered. Written grounds for these judgments are not yet available, and the judgments are not yet final. The fundamental principles of minority law have also been confirmed by reference to the international obligations under the Framework Convention. This means that interventions in local self-government are permissible (the federal state may govern by law that municipalities belong to this area); local majorities and the number of Sorbs and Wends in a municipality are irrelevant. However, in previous hearings and judgments, the court has set criteria for proving Sorbian and Wendish language or culture, meaning that many of the municipalities in question or parts thereof do not belong to the traditional settlement area and thus cannot benefit from territorial minority rights. In the next report, it will be possible to provide information on the final changes resulting from these procedures in the traditional settlement area of the Sorbs and Wends in Brandenburg.

C. General developments

The first part of the report addresses general developments concerning the protection and promotion of national minorities in the Federal Republic of Germany since the previous report which was submitted to the Council of Europe Secretary General on 31 January 2019.

I. Changes to the overall framework

1. Framework agreements and state treaties between federal states and associations

State treaties, framework agreements and joint declarations were concluded or updated between several federal states and the federal state associations of German Sinti and Roma during the reporting period.

As a policy at national level in the field of culture, on 5 December 2018, the **Federal Government and the federal states** concluded an agreement to preserve the graves of Sinti and Roma persecuted under the Nazi regime (*Bund-Länder-Vereinbarung zum Erhalt der Gräber der unter der nationalsozialistischen Gewaltherrschaft verfolgten Sinti und Roma*).

The grave sites of Sinti and Roma persecuted under the Nazi regime, which are under risk of excavation once the burial rights have expired, will be kept as family memorial sites under this agreement. This nationwide regulation provides for long-term preservation and protection of the grave sites of Sinti and Roma persecuted under the Nazi regime.

The aim of the regulation is to protect the grave sites of Sinti and Roma protected by the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities of 1 February 1995 (Council of Europe — ETS No. 157), who were persecuted under the Nazi regime and whose graves do not fall under the provisions of the Graves Act (*Gräbergesetz, GräbG*). The graves in question shall be protected in such a way that any fees for the use of the graves are reimbursed. State, municipal and church regulations on cemetery and funeral services remain unaffected by this agreement. In particular, this agreement does not release the persons entitled to use the grave from the rights and obligations arising from the respective cemetery statutes. This agreement shall apply to the graves of Sinti and Roma who are protected by the abovementioned Council Framework Convention, provided that the following conditions are met:

- The grave (a grave within the meaning of this agreement is the place of a burial site where a person or their ashes have been buried) is located on the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany.
- The buried person was persecuted under the Nazi regime for belonging to the Sinti and Roma ethnic group.

The Federal Office for Central Services and Unresolved Property Issues (Bundesamt für zentrale Dienste und offene Vermögensfragen; BADV) is responsible for carrying out the tasks resulting from the agreement. The Federal Government and the federal states each cover half of the costs of maintaining the graves of Sinti and Roma and the associated administrative costs. Each federal state's share is calculated on the basis of the Königstein Key.

In **Baden-Württemberg**, a new treaty between the federal state of Baden-Württemberg and the Baden-Württemberg Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma – Landesverband Baden-Württemberg e. V.) entered into force on 5 January 2019. It was concluded as a follow-up to the first treaty of 2014 (for details on the first treaty, please see the *comments in section C.I.1 of Germany's Fifth Report on the Framework Convention*). The good cooperation under the first treaty significantly contributed to the institutional funding being increased to 700,000 euros in the first year (with dynamic adjustments in subsequent years) after the new treaty entered into force, and the duration of this new treaty was also extended to 15 years. Essential elements of the first treaty, the common objectives and the institution of the Council to address matters concerning the German Sinti and Roma in Baden-Württemberg (Rat für die Angelegenheiten der deutschen Sinti und Roma in Baden-Württemberg) remain.

The **Free State of Bavaria** reports that, in 2022, the Bavaria Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma – Landesverband Bayern e. V.) expressed a clear wish to adapt the existing contractual agreement between the Association and the state of Bavaria to take account of the financial and substantive circumstances. This request was received favourably by the Bavarian government. On 8 March 2023, on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the deportation of Bavarian Sinti and Roma, Bavaria's Minister-President, Dr Markus Söder, and the Chairman of the Bavaria Association of German Sinti

and Roma, Erich Schneeberger, signed an amendment to the treaty between the state of Bavaria and the Association, which has been in place since 2018. In line with the recommendations for action from the report by the Independent Commission on Antigypsyism, the updated agreement provides for the monitoring of incidents of antigypsyism, for increased cooperation (e.g. in the form of a permanent working group with the relevant departments of the state government of Bavaria, which meets as needed at the initiative of the Bavaria Association of German Sinti and Roma to amicably discuss disputed issues internally between the parties) and for an increase in funding from the state of Bavaria from around 434,700 euros to now 662,300 euros.

Bavaria refers to the comments in section *C.I.1 of the Fifth Report*.

The ***Free Hanseatic City of Bremen*** refers to its comments in section *C.I.1 of the Fifth Report*. In 2012, the Senate of the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen (Senat der Freien Hansestadt Bremen) signed a framework agreement with the Bremen Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband deutscher Sinti und Roma – Landesverband Bremen e. V. / Bremer Sinti-Verein e. V. and Bremerhavener Sinti-Verein e. V.). The aim is to promote participation of Sinti and Roma living in Bremen in cultural, social and economic life and in public affairs, and to create suitable conditions for protecting the Sinti and Roma identity.

The existing state treaty of the ***federal state of Hesse*** with the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma – Landesverband Hessen e. V.) of 6 September 2017 was extended at the request of the Association on 23 May 2022 for 10 years until 31 December 2032.

This extension was preceded by an evaluation by the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma and the state government. The treaty was drawn up with trust and close cooperation between the Hesse State Chancellery (Hessische Staatskanzlei) and the Association, and in consultation with the relevant ministries. The current content and provisions of the treaty have proved to be effective. As a result, most of the information was merely updated.

The annual institutional funding for the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma currently amounts to 300,000 euros for running the office, including staff expenses. With the extension of the treaty, the funding will increase to 500,000 euros per year as of 1 January 2025.

For the *federal state of Rhineland-Palatinate*, it has been reported that, on 14 February 2023, the state cabinet decided to enter into negotiations with the Rhineland-Palatinate Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma – Landesverband Rheinland-Pfalz e. V.) to further develop the framework agreement of 25 July 2005 with the aim of making it a state treaty.

During the reporting period, a legally binding structure for the implementation of the Framework Convention was implemented in the federal state of *Saarland*. For example, on 13 April 2022, the state government of Saarland concluded a framework agreement with the Saarland Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma – Landesverband Saarland e. V.).⁴

Article 7 of the framework agreement specifies the types of funding to be provided by the state government of Saarland: Subject to budgetary legislation, the state government of Saarland strives to ensure long-term funding for the Saarland Association of German Sinti and Roma. The Saarland Association of German Sinti and Roma receives funding for staff and material expenses and applications for funding are granted, subject to the available budget, for projects addressing the historical legacy of the Sinti and Roma, projects to protect and preserve the Romani minority language and projects in the cultural and social spheres.

Furthermore, as stated in Article 4 of the framework agreement, another focus is on language, education and culture. The state government of Saarland therefore considers it important to preserve and protect the language of the Sinti and Roma. Accordingly, in Saarland, the Romani language is protected pursuant to the Language Charter and is an expression of cultural richness. Furthermore, the state government of Saarland continues to be strongly committed to improving education for young and adult Sinti and Roma people in order to ensure equal opportunities for members of the minority community at all levels of education (nurseries, schools and universities). The additional measures and projects developed by the Saarland Association of German Sinti and Roma for the individual levels of

⁴ https://www.saarland.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/msgff/tp_familie_gleichstellung/downloads_integration/download_rahmenvereinbarung_sinti_roma.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=3 (as at 10 October 2023)

education are welcomed and supported within the limits of financial resources. The state of Saarland calls on individual education providers to work together with representatives of the Association on measures and projects.

2. Tackling antigypsyism

a. Independent Commission on Antigypsyism

In the 19th parliamentary term, the Federal Government set up an expert committee on antigypsyism. This committee, the Independent Antigypsyism Commission (Unabhängige Kommission Antiziganismus; UKA), was founded on 27 March 2019 within the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (Bundesministerium des Innern und für Heimat; BMI), following consultation with the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma (Zentralrat Deutscher Sinti und Roma). The Independent Commission on Antigypsyism was directly responsible for formulating specific (research) questions and assignments. It operated independently and set its work agenda autonomously. The Independent Commission on Antigypsyism's activities ended with the completion of its 800-page report titled "A change of perspective: Catching up on Justice and Participation" (*Perspektivwechsel. Nachholende Gerechtigkeit. Partizipation*), which was published on 31 March 2021 and includes numerous recommendations for the Federal Government and federal states. The Federal Cabinet took note of the report on 19 May 2021 and forwarded it to the German Bundestag for further discussion. A parliamentary debate took place there on 24 June 2021. The Independent Commission on Antigypsyism's final report contains an extensive list of structural and institutional antigypsyism experienced by Sinti and Roma in all spheres of life in Germany, even 75 years after the liberation from the Nazi regime. In the coalition agreement of the 20th parliamentary term, the Federal Government committed itself to following the recommendations of the Independent Commission on Antigypsyism and to establishing the office of Federal Government Commissioner for the Fight against Antigypsyism and for Sinti and Roma Life in Germany.

b. Appointing antigypsyism commissioners at federal and state level and further measures to combat antigypsyism

On 13 March 2022, the **Federal Government** created the office of Federal Government Commissioner for the Fight against Antigypsyism and for Sinti and Roma Life in Germany by means of a Cabinet decision. The office's tasks include coordinating Federal Government measures to combat antigypsyism, promoting the implementation of the recommendations of the Independent Commission on Antigypsyism and further developing the National Strategic Framework "Tackling Antigypsyism, Ensuring Participation" (*Antiziganismus bekämpfen, Teilhabe sichern!*). The Federal Government Commissioner for Antigypsyism also acts as the central contact point of the Federal Government for Sinti and Roma in Germany.

Key goals of the Federal Government Commissioner include measures to fully recognise and address the Nazi genocide of Sinti and Roma and the second persecution of Sinti and Roma in Germany, measures to empower self-governing Sinti and Roma organisations and activists in Germany, measures to better protect Sinti and Roma from discrimination, and measures to promote and preserve the cultural heritage of Sinti and Roma in Germany and to make it more visible.

This includes the establishment of a National Coordination Office to Implement the 2020-2030 EU Roma Strategic Framework (Nationale Koordinierungsstelle zur Umsetzung der EU-Roma-Strategie 2030) and a civil-society monitoring and information office to record antigypsyist attacks.

On 12 September 2023, the advisory board of the Federal Government Commissioner for Antigypsyism started its work. The advisory board, which has 11 members, is responsible for advising the Federal Government Commissioner when it comes to identifying areas of action and implementing measures. Predominantly, the perspectives of those affected by antigypsyism are represented in as broad a spectrum as possible. Members include experts from the political sphere, the research community, public administration and civil society.

The **federal state of Baden-Württemberg** welcomes and supports the establishment of the office of Federal Government Commissioner for the Fight against Antigypsyism and for Sinti and Roma Life in Germany. The first Research Centre on Antigypsyism (Forschungsstelle Antiziganismus) at the University of Heidelberg, which was set up in 2017 and is funded by

the state of Baden-Württemberg, is an important point of reference for the work of the Federal Government Commissioner.

One aspect of the amended treaty between the **Free State of Bavaria** and the Bavaria Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma – Landesverband Bayern e. V.) of 8 March 2023 is the agreement to create a monitoring office to document antigypsyist incidents against Sinti and Roma with the possibility of an initial consultation with the Association in the event of such incidents. In addition, a permanent working group consisting of the relevant departments of the state government of Bavaria, the Bavaria Association of German Sinti and Roma and other stakeholders (e.g. the national associations of local authorities) will deal with more far-reaching antigypsyist incidents. Bavaria does not yet intend to appoint an antigypsyism commissioner. The Bavaria Association of German Sinti and Roma has supported the call of the Independent Commission on Antigypsyism for antigypsyism commissioners to be appointed at state level. Discussions regarding this are ongoing.

In the 19th parliamentary term, the **federal state of Berlin** intends to appoint a contact point for antigypsyism in the Berlin Senate. The contact point is expected to be appointed from 2024/25 under the leadership of the Berlin Senate Department for Labour, Social Services, Gender Equality, Integration, Diversity and Anti-Discrimination (Senatsverwaltung für Arbeit, Soziales, Gleichstellung, Integration, Vielfalt und Antidiskriminierung; SenASGIVA), in close consultation with representatives of the Sinti and Roma.

In the **federal state of Brandenburg**, the state Ministry for Science, Research and Culture (Ministerium für Wissenschaft, Forschung und Kultur; MWFK) was designated the lead authority for combating antigypsyism in 2023. At the same time, a contact person for Sinti and Roma matters was also appointed. There is currently no intention to appoint an antigypsyism commissioner.

The **Free Hanseatic City of Bremen** reports that fundamental issues of anti-discrimination policy are dealt with by the State Commissioner for Integration. For this reason, a separate commissioner for the fight against antigypsyism has not been appointed in Bremen.

In 2014, the **federal state of Hesse** joined the coalition against discrimination. The Anti-Discrimination Agency of the State of Hesse (Antidiskriminierungsstelle des Landes Hessen) went into operation in 2015. It is a support unit within the Hesse Ministry for Social Affairs and Integration (Hessisches Ministerium für Soziales und Integration; HMSI) and reports directly to the State Commissioner for Integration and Anti-Discrimination. The main tasks of the anti-discrimination agency are public relations, prevention, awareness-raising, networking and advising. The legal basis for its work includes the General Equal Treatment Act (*Gleichbehandlungsgesetz, AGG*).

The anti-discrimination agency offers advising for everyone in Hesse which includes an initial assessment of discrimination cases free of charge. The agency also offers mediation and awareness-raising measures. To increase the range of advising services offered, since 2016, the state-wide anti-discrimination advising network ADiBe has been tasked with offering psychosocial and legal anti-discrimination advice. Members of the ADiBe Network include the Association to Promote the Roma (Förderverein Roma e. V.), which provides advice in cases of discrimination.

For this reason, there are currently no attempts in Hesse to appoint an antigypsyism commissioner at state level.

In its coalition agreement, the **state government of Lower Saxony** agreed to examine the implementation of the recommendations of the Independent Commission on Antigypsyism, which was set up by the Bundestag. Lower Saxony supports the comprehensive reforms in family and name law planned at federal level, stressing that the interests of children must always remain the focus. In February 2022, Lower Saxony's Ministry of Justice (Niedersächsisches Justizministerium) appointed a (provisional) point of contact for the Federal Government Commissioner for Antigypsyism. This (provisional) point of contact is to participate in the planned Joint Federal and State Commission, but does not have the status of a state commissioner.

For the **federal state of Rhineland-Palatinate**, see the comments in section *C.I.1*. The question as to whether an antigypsyism commissioner will be appointed in the state of Rhineland-Palatinate will be the subject of the contractual negotiations.

Combating discrimination of any kind forms part of the remit of the Commissioner for Integration of the state government of *Saarland*; there is no dedicated state commissioner for antigypsyism.

As part of the anti-discrimination measures set out in Article 6 of the framework agreement, the state government of Saarland and the Saarland Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V. – Landesverband Saarland) are committed to combating any discrimination against members of the minority and to protecting Sinti and Roma from acts that impair their ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity. Article 6 also makes a request on the part of the state government to public-service broadcasters and the state media authority to combat discrimination against members of the minority and to take due account of the particular interests of German Sinti and Roma in their services. Furthermore, Article 6 refers to the need for public authorities to adapt to the concerns of Sinti and Roma. Membership of a minority shall not be disclosed internally or externally unless it is strictly necessary for understanding the situation.

With this in mind, the office and advisory service of the Saarland Association of German Sinti and Roma, which was established by the federal state in 2021 and is also funded by the federal state, aims to provide the broadest possible advice and assistance to members of the Sinti and Roma minority. This service acts as a contact point for German Sinti and Roma and immigrant Roma in Saarland. The office's key areas of action include political advocacy vis-à-vis the federal state, combating antigypsyism, remembrance and historical-political educational work, and educating and empowering Sinti and Roma.

Furthermore, the Saarland Centre for Democracy (Landes-Demokratiezentrum; LDZ), which has been funded by the federal programme "Live Democracy!" (*Demokratie Leben!*) of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend; BMFSFJ) since the 2nd funding period (duration: 2020 to 2024), is committed to preventing and combating anti-democratic tendencies by offering mandatory specialised counselling centres (mobile counselling, counselling for victims and disengagement counselling). The state centre for democracy therefore supports and develops effective strategies to tackle right-wing extremism, right-wing populism, racism, antisemitism, antigypsyism and anti-Islam sentiment. It coordinates and frames coop-

eration between government and civil-society stakeholders, including the Saarland Association of German Sinti and Roma, in the areas of promoting democracy, shaping diversity and preventing extremism. In particular, in the event of incidents of antigypsyism, the specialised counselling centres refer affected individuals between the relevant services, primarily between mobile counselling, victim counselling and the Saarland Association of German Sinti and Roma, and, if necessary, the competence network on antigypsyism of the federal programme “Live democracy!” is consulted; the coordination office of the competence network is the Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma (Dokumentations- und Kulturzentrum Deutscher Sinti und Roma).

In addition, on the basis of a study carried out by the University of Esslingen in 2021, titled “Outline for a Prevention and De-Radicalisation Network in Saarland. A study-based proposal” (*Eckpunkte für ein Präventions- und Deradikalisierungsnetzwerk im Saarland (PuDiS). Ein studiengestützter Konzeptvorschlag*), a Prevention and De-Radicalisation Network was implemented in Saarland in order to develop a nationwide prevention strategy in the various areas of this phenomenon. In addition to the interministerial steering group, the broader instrument of the round table brings together interdisciplinary expertise where civil-society representatives – including the Saarland Association of German Sinti and Roma – and security authorities draw up objectives for a pending state action plan to promote democracy and prevent extremism.

Saarland, in its responsibility for social compensation, is currently preparing the implementation of the Social Code Book XIV (*Vierzehntes Sozialgesetzbuch, SGB XIV*) from 1 January 2024. Social compensation law as a whole is being redefined and adapted to the needs of victims of violence today. The new provisions significantly broaden the scope of beneficiaries and the possible benefits. As part of the reform, the concept of violence has been redefined and expanded to include psychological violence. This instrument can also make the fight against antigypsyism more effective.

The **federal state of Schleswig-Holstein** attaches great importance to combating racism and other ideologies of inequality such as antigypsyism. Global developments and the increase in attacks throughout Germany and Europe on persons with a foreign appearance show that such preventive work is very important. In Schleswig-Holstein, the State Preven-

tion Council (Landespräventionsrat Schleswig-Holstein; LPR) and the State Centre for Democracy are responsible for the prevention of racism across the federal state, as well as other ideologies of inequality such as antigypsyism.

In Schleswig-Holstein, an Antigypsyism Commissioner was appointed following the state elections on 8 May 2022. The Minister-President's Commissioner for National Minorities and Ethnic Groups, Border Area Work and Low German is no longer a voluntary post, but is now a full-time post with the status of a state secretary, and the remit has been extended to include the task of combating antigypsyism. The aim is to create a central contact point for associations of the German Sinti and Roma minority, for civil-society stakeholders involved in the fight against antigypsyism and for cooperation between the Federal Government and the federal states. The aspect of combating antigypsyism is complemented by the commitment to equal participation of Sinti and Roma in all areas of society, which has been part of the work of minorities commissioners in Schleswig-Holstein for more than 30 years.

At the same time, projects related to antigypsyism are being developed as part of the work on preventing and combating extremism, which is led by the Schleswig-Holstein Centre for Democracy and the State Prevention Council, in cooperation with self-governed minority organisations. Further details can be found in section *D.II.3.d*.

In addition, as of 2023, the prevention work of the Schleswig-Holstein Centre for Democracy has been strengthened in the area of antigypsyism. On 1 June 2023, another specialist unit in the field of antigypsyism was established and staffed. The aim of the specialist unit is to implement further projects for preventing antigypsyism in Schleswig-Holstein and to accompany the establishment of a state-wide reporting office for incidents of antigypsyism, based on the National Reporting and Information Office on Antigypsyism (Melde- und Informationsstelle Antiziganismus; MIA).

On 28 February 2023, the acting Minister for Migration, Justice and Consumer Protection was appointed Commissioner for Antigypsyism for the **Free State of Thuringia** by the State Cabinet.

c. Recognition of the IHRA definition of antigypsyism by the Federal Government

On 8 October 2020, under the German Presidency, the working definition of antigypsyism was adopted on the basis of a consensus among the then 34 member states of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA). On 31 March 2021, the **Federal Government** acknowledged the working definition of antigypsyism adopted by the IHRA, which was not legally binding, thus politically endorsing it. The Federal Government advocates the adoption of the working definition of antigypsyism, both nationally and internationally, including by civil-society organisations and businesses.

d. Conclusion of a cooperation agreement between the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma (Zentralrat Deutscher Sinti und Roma) and the Federal Criminal Police Office (Bundeskriminalamt; BKA)

On 27 January 2023, to mark the International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust and the 78th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Nazi concentration and extermination camp, a joint agreement was signed between the Federal Criminal Police Office and the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma in the field of education and training. In order to maintain cooperation with the criminal police faculty at the Federal University of Public Administration (Hochschule des Bundes; HS Bund)”. as part of their studies, all students are required to attend a full-day event on antigypsyism prior to their traineeship in their respective federal states. The Education Centre against Antigypsyism (Bildungsforum gegen Antiziganismus) aims to support or supervise bachelor’s theses written by students of the criminal police faculty at the Federal University of Public Administration. In addition to student events, the Education Centre against Antigypsyism is to offer two full-day training courses, initially aimed at managers and multipliers. The aim is to focus on antigypsyism as a specific form of racism and on the history and present-day lives of Sinti and Roma.

While signing these cooperation agreements, the Federal Criminal Police Office officially recognised the non-binding definition of antigypsyism of the IHRA.

e. Inclusion of the fight against antigypsyism in the state constitution of Brandenburg

In 2022, the constitution of the *federal state of Brandenburg* was the first German constitution to be supplemented by the state objective of combating antigypsyism. The wording of Article 7a (protection of peaceful coexistence) reads as follows: “(1) The federal state protects the peaceful coexistence of people and opposes antisemitism, antigypsyism and the spread of racist and xenophobic ideologies. (2) The federal state promotes Jewish life and Jewish culture.”

f. Reappraisal of the Bavarian Criminal Police Office’s postwar history

During the post-war period, the Office for Gypsies and Travellers (Zigeuner- bzw. Landfahrerstelle) of the *Bavarian Criminal Police Office* (Bayerisches Landeskriminalamt) had a prominent role – from selecting staff and communicating patterns of action and attitudes to the outside world, to its scope of activity and influence. Among other things, the role of the Office for Gypsies and Travellers in reparation proceedings is of high relevance, as reparation authorities included police reports issued by this office in their decision-making. For these reasons, the leadership supported the initiative of a member of the authorities to work on the history of this office of the Bavarian Criminal Police Office. The results of the investigation were published in the series of documents of the German Association for Police History titled “The Bavarian Criminal Police Office and its ‘Gypsy Police’ – Continuity and discontinuity of Bavaria’s Gypsy investigations in the 20th century” (*Das Bayerische Landeskriminalamt und seine “Zigeunerpolizei”. Kontinuitäten und Diskontinuitäten der bayerischen ‘Zigeunerermittlung’ im 20. Jahrhundert*). The book and its results were presented to the public on 14 December 2021 during a press conference, where the Chairman of the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma (Zentralrat Deutscher Sinti and Roma e. V.), Romani Rose, also spoke. The depiction of the Nazi past of staff members and how this was approached internally, the consideration of the supporting elements from the population and authorities, and the tracing of a common thread in the Gypsy and Traveller investigations from the German Empire, the Weimar Republic and National Socialism through to the post-war period revealed the poignancy of this office and justified to a large extent its exclusive

reappraisal. The end of the reappraisal process was marked by the dissolution of the Office for Gypsies and Travellers in 1965.

The Bavaria Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V. – Landesverband Bayern) appreciates this achievement, but adds that, because of its limited subject matter, the work does not deal with the consequences of the activities of the Office for Gypsies and Travellers, which continued to have an impact for decades, and of the Bavarian Traveller Code (*Bayerische Landfahrerordnung*) adopted by the state parliament of Bavaria in 1953 and repealed only in 1970. For example, the unconstitutional police record-keeping of Bavarian Sinti and Roma was only discontinued in 2001 on the basis of a constitutional complaint lodged by the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma and the Bavaria Association of German Sinti and Roma as well as popular actions brought by two Holocaust survivors at the same time. Therefore, in the view of the Bavaria Association of German Sinti and Roma, a further and more intense reappraisal of the consequences and impacts of the work of the Office for Gypsies and Travellers is necessary. In addition, the consequences for countless reparation proceedings of Bavarian Sinti and Roma, which have been negatively impacted in the long term as a result of racist reports by the Office for Gypsies and Travellers, have been discussed in the work only in a cursory manner and are now to be addressed further in a subsequent step. The Central Council of German Sinti and Roma and the Bavaria Association of German Sinti and Roma are currently discussing this with the president of the Bavarian Criminal Police Office.

g. Joint Declaration on teaching about the history and present-day lives of Sinti and Roma in schools

On December 2022, the *Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany* (Kultusministerkonferenz; KMK) adopted the “Declaration on teaching about the history and present-day lives of Sinti and Roma in schools” (*Erklärung zur Vermittlung der Geschichte und Gegenwart von Sinti und Roma in der Schule*), which was drawn up together with the Central Council of German

Sinti and Roma and the Alliance for Solidarity with the Sinti and Roma of Europe, after several years of efforts.⁵ A few days later, the joint signing took place with the president of the KMK.

The aim of this Joint Declaration is for Sinti and Roma, as members of German and European societies, in particular as citizens of Germany and other European countries, to be addressed as an integral part of German and European history and cultural history in school education and extracurricular activities. School pupils are to be provided with an authentic and differentiated picture of the multifaceted realities of Sinti and Roma.

Special attention is to be given to raising awareness of antigypsyism, also when it comes to teacher training. Subjects relating to history, politics, religion and ethics lend themselves well to this purpose, as well as linguistic, literary and artistic subjects. This should be taken into account in the case of changes and notices regarding the curriculum and when drafting handouts. Primary school, which is a place for fundamental experiences in how to treat oneself and others, can start including elements of the topic.

h. Establishing a civil-society monitoring mechanism: Reporting and Information Office on Antigypsyism

On the basis of a decision of the German Bundestag, the *Federal Government* has been providing funding to establish an independent Reporting and Information Office on Antigypsyism (Melde- und Informationsstelle Antiziganismus; MIA) since October 2021. The Central Council of German Sinti and Roma (Zentralrat Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V.) was initially the responsible body and, since 1 September 2023, the newly established Reporting and Information Office on Antigypsyism has been responsible. The main objective is to record, document and evaluate incidents of antigypsyism in Germany in order to shed light on the number of unreported cases and to learn about the experiences of those affected. State reporting offices are being set up in cooperation with the federal states. On 18 September 2023, the Reporting and Information Office on

⁵ https://www.kmk.org/fileadmin/Dateien/pdf/PresseUndAktuelles/2022/2022-12-12_gem-Erklaerung-Sinti-Roma.pdf (as at 10 October 2023)

Antigypsyism presented the first annual report on incidents of antigypsyism in Germany. According to the report, a total of 621 incidents of antigypsyism were recorded in the 2022 reporting period.

3. Conclusion of a German–Danish Action Plan

On 26 August 2022 in Copenhagen, the **German Minister for Foreign Affairs** and the Danish Minister for Foreign Affairs signed the Joint Action Plan for Future German-Danish Cooperation (*Gemeinsame Aktionsplan für die künftige deutsch-dänische Zusammenarbeit*), which focuses on the border region in its first chapter. Germany – in consultation with the **federal state of Schleswig-Holstein** – and Denmark committed to further strengthening the rights of national minorities and to engaging in discussions with the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein on strengthening the role of the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) in the coming years. In the Action Plan, it was also agreed that a working group would be established to address obstacles in the border region and to propose solutions in the areas of social security, digital transformation, tax issues, business activities, education and the recognition of educational qualifications among others.

For this cooperation with the Kingdom of Denmark, in June 2022, the **federal state of Schleswig-Holstein** also appointed a Minister-President’s Commissioner for Cooperation with Denmark with the status of a state secretary, who continues to implement German-Danish activities under the Action Plan, focusing on Schleswig-Holstein interests. In the course of the Commissioner’s work, the State Cabinet adopted key elements of a state strategy for cooperating with Denmark. This strategy incorporates the implementation of the Action Plan with additional state-level policy initiatives (economic, social, educational and municipal cooperation with stakeholders from both countries).

The Minister-President’s Commissioner for Cooperation with Denmark also carries out duties as the Minister-President’s Commissioner for National Minorities and Ethnic Groups, Border Area Work and Low German.

4. Adoption of state strategies to strengthen the Lower Sorbian language

During the reporting period, the **state government of Brandenburg** adopted several strategic and planning documents which also relate to strengthening the use of the Lower Sorbian language. These are the 2021 e-government strategy of the federal state of Brandenburg (*e-Government-Strategie des Landes Brandenburg*), the 2021 digital agenda of Brandenburg's Ministry for Science, Research and Culture (*Digitale Agenda des Ministeriums für Wissenschaft, Forschung und Kultur*), the 2022 second state plan to strengthen the Lower Sorbian language (*2. Landesplan zur Stärkung der niedersorbischen Sprache / 2. Krajny plan k zmócnjenju dolnoserbskeje řečy*) and the 2023 multilingualism strategy – assessment and strategic development of linguistic diversity in the education system in the state of Brandenburg (*Mehrsprachigkeitskonzept – Bestandsaufnahme und strategische Weiterentwicklung der Sprachenvielfalt im Bildungssystem im Land Brandenburg*) of the Ministry for Education, Youth and Sport.

5. Establishment of the Foundation for the Frisian Ethnic Group in the Federal State of Schleswig–Holstein (Friesenstiftung)

On 13 December 2019, the state parliament of **Schleswig-Holstein** adopted the Friesenstiftung Act (*Errichtungsgesetz Friesenstiftung, FriesStiftErG*), which was introduced by the state government, thereby sending another clear message for the preservation and promotion of the language, culture and tradition of minorities and ethnic groups. The Friesenstiftung Act of 13 January 2020 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances, p. 4), with the abbreviation “Friesenstiftung” and the Frisian title “Friisk Stiftung”, established a foundation with legal capacity under public law in Schleswig-Holstein on 30 January 2020. The purpose of this Foundation is to promote culture and the arts, to preserve the language, to support general education and research, and to preserve local traditions and customs, all with reference to the Frisian ethnic group in Schleswig-Holstein. Another express purpose of the Foundation is to promote cooperation among the different Frisian groups. In addition, out of the nine members of the Foundation Board, which is the Foundation's main body, four are representatives from the Frisian ethnic group with voting rights. The

Foundation provides a guarantee of perpetuity for long-term support for the Frisian ethnic group in Schleswig-Holstein.

6. Bill to amend the law on married names and birth names

On 23 August 2023, the Federal Government adopted a bill to amend the law on married names and birth names submitted by the Federal Minister of Justice. The purpose of the envisaged law is to liberalise the married and birth name rights of the Civil Code (*Bürgerliches Gesetzbuch*, BGB). The bill also takes into account the naming traditions of the minorities recognised in Germany.

- Sections 1355b and 1617f of the draft version of the Civil Code create the possibility for members of the Sorbian people to change their married name and birth name according to the Sorbian naming tradition by sex.
- Section 1617g of the draft Civil Code allows members of the Frisian ethnic group to give patronymical names, i.e. a derivation of the father's given name as the child's birth name. For a modern interpretation of this tradition, matronymic forms, i.e. a derivation of the mother's given name, are also to be permitted.
- Section 1617h of the draft Civil Code reflects the Danish tradition of middle names: a child belonging to the Danish minority may be given a double-barrelled family name without the use of a hyphen; the first of these names is the name of a close relative who is not a parent.

The draft also simplifies the procedure in the Act on Name Changes by Minorities (*Minderheiten-Namensänderungsgesetz*, MindNamÄndG) for the use of diacritical marks and other special letters (in the case of Danish: Å, Æ, Ø) when determining a child's given name. The proposed new provision in section 1 (1) sentence 5 of the Act on Name Changes by Minorities will allow the given name of a child to be determined directly in the language of the national minority or ethnic group, for example "Søren". It will no longer be necessary to first determine the name "Sören" and then translate it to "Søren" pursuant to section 1 (1) sentence 1 no. 2 of the Act on Name Changes by Minorities.

7. Financial support for national minorities in Germany

The *Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community* reports that the funding for the Secretariat for the Four Autochthonous National Minorities in Germany (Minderheitensekretariat der vier autochthonen nationalen Minderheiten und Volksgruppen Deutschlands), as described in the Fifth Report on the Framework Convention, has continued so that the Minority Secretariat can fulfil its tasks (*see comments in section C.I.3. of the Fifth Report on the Framework Convention*). During the reporting period, the funding was increased from 85,000 euros (2018) to approximately 355,000 euros (2023), allowing the following additional measures to be implemented by the Minority Secretariat, partly in cooperation with the Low German Secretariat (Niederdeutschsekretariat):

- In order to implement a measure in line with the motion adopted by the coalition parties titled “The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages 25 years on: A shared task” (*25 Jahre Europäische Charta der Regional- oder Minderheitensprachen – Gemeinsamer Auftrag*), which was preceded by a debate of the German Bundestag on 2 June 2017 (*see section C.III. of the Fifth Report on the Framework Convention*), funding has been provided for in budget legislation to organise a travelling exhibition on the history, culture and identity of recognised autochthonous minorities and the regional language of Low German.

The travelling exhibition “What is a minority? — Danes · Frisians · Sorbs and Wends · German Sinti and Roma · Low German speakers”⁶ (*Was heißt hier Minderheit? – Dänen · Friesen · Sorben/Wenden · deutsche Sinti und Roma · Plattspreecher*) was opened on 16 March 2022 at the Paul-Löbe-Haus of the German Bundestag and will be shown throughout Germany until at least 2027.

A total budget of 92,000 euros was allocated in 2021 and 2022 for the production of a film aimed at providing information on the four autochthonous national minorities and ethnic groups in Germany and the Low German speakers. The film is aimed at members of the majority society who have no prior knowledge of the four autochthonous minorities in Ger-

⁶ <https://washeissthierminderheit.de/> (as at 10 October 2023)

many and the regional language of Low German, e.g. school pupils and participants of educational and training courses, including those organised by the Minority Secretariat or minority associations working in the Minority Council (Minderheitenrat). Schools should also be able to use the film on a voluntary basis. The film has been published on the websites of the Minority Secretariat and the Low German Secretariat.⁷ Funding for the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) (see also comments in section *C.I.3. of Germany's Fifth Report on the Framework Convention*) continued within the reporting period and was increased to 670,000 euros as of 2022.

The Federal Republic of Germany, in conjunction with the Kingdom of Denmark, continues to fund the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) through funds from the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community and from the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein. The funding is based on specific percentages, with Germany and the Kingdom of Denmark each allocating half of the institutional funds. The amount allocated by the Federal Government and the state of Schleswig-Holstein was increased from 463,000 euros (2018, of which 250,000 euros were federal funds and 213,000 euros were funds from the state of Schleswig-Holstein) to 688,500 euros (2023, of which 372,000 euros are federal funds and 316,500 euros are funds from the state of Schleswig-Holstein).

On 22 June 2020, the Schleswig-Holstein/Southern Denmark Minority Competence Network was set up (Minderheiten-Kompetenz-Netzwerk Schleswig-Holstein/Süddänemark e. V.; MKN).

The aim of this Network, which is based in Sankelmark in Oeversee, is to promote understanding of national autochthonous minorities and ethnic groups as well as their language and culture, and to support exchange of information and experience amongst these national autochthonous minorities and ethnic groups and with the majority population, primarily in

⁷ <https://www.minderheitensekretariat.de/2023/08/22/das-salz-in-der-suppe-filmpremiere-zu-den-minderheiten-und-den-plattsprecherinnen/> (as at 10 October 2023); <https://www.niederdeutschsekretariat.de/das-salz-in-der-suppe-filmpremiere-zu-den-minderheiten-und-den-plattsprecherinnen/> (as at 10 October 2023)

Europe. The Network fulfils this objective mainly by coordinating cooperation between local minority associations and by supporting projects, seminars, encounters and exchanges organised by the Network itself or by its members, which take place in Schleswig-Holstein and/or the Southern Denmark region.

The founding members are the Association of Germans in North Schleswig (Bund Deutscher Nordschleswiger; BDN), the Frisian Council North Section (Friesenrat e. V. – Sektion Nord), the South Schleswig Association (Südschleswigsche Verein; SSF), the Schleswig-Holstein Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V. – Landesverband Schleswig-Holstein), the European Academy of Schleswig-Holstein (Europäische Akademie Schleswig-Holstein), the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) and the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN).

The Schleswig-Holstein/Southern Denmark Minority Competence Network receives funding from the budget of Schleswig-Holstein and from the federal budget. In 2021, the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community was able to provide the Schleswig-Holstein/Southern Denmark Minority Competence Network with funding of approximately 18,000 euros for the first time in order to create a website. Since the 2022 financial year, project funding for the Minority Competence Network has been increased to 50,000 euros per year.

The ***federal state of Schleswig-Holstein*** has been supporting the Minority Competence Network with institutional funding since its creation and with project funding since 2021. In 2023, the state budget allocates 150,000 euros to the Minority Competence Network's work, of which up to 55,000 euros is for the institutional funding of the sponsoring association.

Since its creation in 2020, the Minority Competence Network's aim has been to promote the model of minority policy developed over decades in the German-Danish border region for and with recognised autochthonous minorities in other regions of Europe, to organise exchanges in the border region with members of minorities from European regions, to raise awareness of minority concerns among the general public and to communicate knowledge about the history, traditions and present-day lives of minorities. In recent years, various online formats have been developed in response to pandemic-related restrictions on public life, resulting in a wide reach for seminars and discussions, also internationally. Hybrid and

online formats were therefore also integrated into the regular work of the Minority Competence Network. Since the end of 2022, in-person events have once again been the focus of the activities, with an exchange being organised in the German-Danish border region and groups from different European regions being invited in 2023, including from Estonia, Latvia and Ukraine.

On 20 July 2021, the ***Federal Government, the Free State of Saxony and the federal state of Brandenburg*** signed a new agreement on joint funding for the Foundation for the Sorbian People (Stiftung für das sorbische Volk). This fourth funding agreement covers the period from 2021 to 2025.

Under the fourth funding agreement, the Federal Government will provide 11.96 million euros per annum, while the Free State of Saxony and the federal state of Brandenburg will contribute 7.97 million euros and 3.99 million euros, respectively. The total funding provided to the Foundation for the Sorbian People by the three funding partners thus increases from 18.6 million euros to 23.92 million euros annually. The funding shares of the three funding partners were continued along the lines of the third funding agreement: three sixths of the funding are provided by the Federal Government, two sixths by the Free State of Saxony and one sixth by the federal state of Brandenburg.

In addition, the Federal Government and the federal states of Brandenburg and Saxony may in accordance with Article 2 of the funding agreement provide benefits beyond those specified in Article 1.

Since 2021, the Federal Government has been using this to support other projects related to digital transformation with up to 195,000 euros made available by the budgetary authority.

On 14 April 2020, the Structural Reinforcement Act for Mining Regions (*Strukturstärkungsgesetz Kohleregionen, StStG*) entered into force, implementing the recommendations of the Commission on Growth, Structural Change and Employment (Kommission "Wachstum, Strukturwandel und Beschäftigung").

Pursuant to section 17 (31) of the Structural Reinforcement Act for Mining Regions, the Federal Government supports measures to promote the preservation and development of the language, culture and traditions of the Sorbian people as a national minority. For exam-

ple, the Federal Government is providing funding of up to 19 million euros to the Foundation for the Sorbian People for measures within the scope of the state of Brandenburg until 2031 and up to 42.5 million euros for measures within the scope of the Free State of Saxony until 2038. For more information, see the comments in section *D.XI.3.b*.

In accordance with section 4 of the Coal Region Investment Act (*Investitionsgesetz Kohleregionen, InvKGMittel*), the Federal Government continues to provide funding of 40.45 million euros for the construction of the Sorbian Knowledge Forum at the Lauenareal (Sorbisches Wissensforum am Lauenareal) in Bautzen, which combines the new building for the Sorbian Institute (Sorbisches Institut), including the Sorbian Cultural Archives (Sorbisches Kulturarchiv) and the Sorbian Central Library (Sorbische Zentralbibliothek), and the Sorbian Museum (Sorbisches Museum) under one roof. The Free State of Saxony has agreed to cover the contribution of the Foundation for the Sorbian People to the project, amounting to 10% of the eligible costs (approximately 4.45 million euros) and has provided funding to pre-finance the planning services by the Foundation in the amount of 1.7 million euros.

The **Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media** provides the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma with annual funding of 702,000 euros (2019: 579,000 euros) and the Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma with annual funding of 1.549 million euros (2019: 1.438 million euros). The funds in the estimated federal budget for the cultural promotion of both facilities have been increased since the last reporting period. In addition, the Foundation Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe (Stiftung Denkmal für die ermordeten Juden Europas), which is funded entirely by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media, runs a Memorial to the Sinti and Roma of Europe Murdered under the National Socialist Regime (Denkmal für die im Nationalsozialismus ermordeten Sinti und Roma) and, since 2022, a permanent open-air exhibition in the Tiergarten park in Berlin, representing the life histories and fates of Sinti and Roma.

The Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma (Dokumentations- und Kulturzentrum Deutscher Sinti und Roma) in Heidelberg needs to be renovated and is to be expanded, as requested by the Independent Commission on Antigypsyism (Unabhängigen Kommission Antiziganismus; UKA). The administrative wing is to be replaced by a more functional new building and the exhibition wing in the old building is to be repurposed for a

new permanent exhibition which will cover the period after 1945, including the development of the civil rights movement up to the present day. The Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media oversees and coordinates the process as the centre's institutional sponsor. In 2021, the German Bundestag allocated 210,000 euros of the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media's budget to finance planning services. Following a feasibility study in 2018, as well as preliminary plans, the first of a two-phase architectural design competition was carried out in 2020/21 with the support of the city of Heidelberg and the state of Baden-Württemberg. The estimated cost of the whole operation is around 50 million euros (34 million euros net construction costs plus equipment, as well as the cost of creating a new permanent exhibition). Half of the funds of up to 25 million euros were also budgeted in 2022 by the German Bundestag as part of the new federal funding programme for architectural projects in the field of culture, which requires the federal state to provide the other half of funding. The aim is for the city of Heidelberg and the state of Baden-Württemberg to make a contribution to the financing. The Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media is expected to release funds for planning services from the federal funding programme for culture in 2023 in order to further advance the plans for renovation and expansion.

The "Rome Archives – Digital Archives of Sinti and Roma" (*RomArchive - Digitales Archiv der Sinti und Roma*), a digital collection of international art as an expression of the culture and history of Sinti and Roma, which was created between 2015 and 2019 with funding from the German Federal Government Foundation of the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media, is now located at the Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma.

As part of the *KulturInvest Bau* funding programme for architectural projects in the field of culture, the Budget Committee of the German Bundestag has also supported the initiative of the Baden-Württemberg Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V – Landesverband Baden-Württemberg) to create exhibitions and learning spaces in Mannheim for the RomnoKher house, which is a place of commemoration and learning. This will enable the Association to collaborate on artistic, cultural and artisanal projects with different group sizes. The exhibition, which was developed as part of the pro-

ject, will form the basis for this and will be included in the educational programmes. The estimated cost of implementation is up to 400,000 euros. Of this amount, up to 200,000 euros will be financed by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media under the *KulturInvest Bau* funding programme. The Baden-Württemberg Association of German Sinti and Roma intends to contribute a further 30,000 euros, while the remaining 170,000 euros will be financed by the state of Baden-Württemberg. In the reporting period, the Association also received funding of 200,000 euros from the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media as part of the “Young People Remember” (*Jugend erinnert*) funding programme in order to professionalise educational work by combining target group-specific placement concepts and thus indirectly raising awareness of antigypsyism among participants.

The cultural promotion of the Frisian ethnic group is primarily provided by the state of Schleswig-Holstein (North Frisians) and Lower Saxony (Sater Frisians) and is supplemented by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media. The Federal Government Commissioner and the two states have agreed that federal funds should focus on supporting annual funding for projects with significant interregional importance. Funding provided by the Federal Government Commissioner for the autochthonous Frisian ethnic group has increased to up to 320,000 euros since the last reporting period (2019/2020/2021: up to 315.000 euros). According to the agreement with the Frisian ethnic group, up to 300,000 euros is earmarked for the North Frisian ethnic group with settlement and language areas in Schleswig-Holstein, and up to 20,000 euros for the Sater Frisians, whose settlement area is in Lower Saxony. In the respective legislative process, a one-off increase of 55,000 euros was budgeted in the 2021 financial year and a one-off increase of 50,000 euros in the 2022 and 2023 financial years from the fund of the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media, benefitting the funding of Frisians in Schleswig-Holstein through the Foundation for the Frisian Ethnic Group in the Federal State of Schleswig-Holstein (Friesenstiftung).

Cultural funding for the Danish minority in Germany is also provided primarily by the state of Schleswig-Holstein and is added to by the Federal Government Commissioner, amounting to 150,000 euros per year and remaining the same since the last reporting period. The

South Schleswig Association (in Danish: Sydslesvigsk Forening) received institutional funding from the state of Schleswig-Holstein and from Denmark. The Federal Government and the state of Schleswig-Holstein have agreed to focus the annual federal funding on investment and rehabilitation measures of particular importance. Since the last reporting period, the annual budget from 2016 to 2022 has enabled the renovation and implementation of fire protection measures at the Skipperhuset Cultural and Meeting Centre (Kultur- und Begegnungszentrum Skipperhuset) in Tönning (total costs: 820,000 euros). In 2022, the multi-year renovation of the Slesvighus (total funding of 1.116 million euros) was approved from 2022 to 2030.

In addition, the 2022 and 2023 legislative processes each allocated 50,000 euros for a consumptive project of the South Schleswig Association. These funds from the budget of the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media will be available for the 2023 Danish parade over the course of multiple years.

Under the treaty between the *federal state of Baden-Württemberg* and the Baden-Württemberg Association of German Sinti and Roma Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma – Landesverband Baden-Württemberg e. V.), which entered into force on 5 January 2019, the state supported the Association with 700,000 euros in 2019 and will be providing 721,000 euros from 2020. This amount has been increased by 2% annually since 2021, which will continue until the end of the contract period. This is intended to ensure the work and involvement of the Baden-Württemberg Association of German Sinti and Roma in fulfilling the tasks specified in the contract.

The federal state of Baden-Württemberg continues to provide financial support for the Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma (Dokumentations- und Kulturzentrum Deutscher Sinti und Roma) in Heidelberg, contributing 10 percent of total annual operating costs. The exact amounts can be found in the respective government budget plans.

The Research Centre on Antigypsyism at the Department of History (Historisches Seminar) of the University of Heidelberg has been funded by the federal state since it was opened in July 2017. In 2022, for example, the Research Centre received funding of 232,250 euros. The funds cover staff and material costs. The same amount of funding is planned for 2023.

During the reporting period, Baden-Württemberg's Ministry for Social Affairs, Health and Integration (Ministerium für Soziales, Gesundheit und Integration; MSGI) funded the project "ReFIT – Regional Promotion of Inclusion and Participation" (*ReFIT - Regionale Förderung von Inklusion und Teilhabe*) of the Baden-Württemberg Association of German Sinti and Roma with a total amount of 1,216,300 euros. In 2022, the project was expanded to include a component on issues related to Roma refugees from Ukraine. This aspect continued in 2023.

On 20 February 2018, the **Free State of Bavaria** concluded an agreement under public law with the Bavaria Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma – Landesverband Bayern e. V.) with effect from 1 July 2018, in which the federal state provides financial assistance to the Association in the amount of 474,700 euros per year. In 2023, an amending agreement between the state of Bavaria and the Association not only increased the funding amount to 662,300 euros, but also laid down a dynamic adjustment of the contractual services from 2024 onwards (based on the development of the remuneration of civil servants) in order to ensure the Association's liquidity and thus its ability to act in the event of future increases in salaries or other ongoing expenses (e.g. rents); these funds will also (co-)finance, among other things, the establishment and operation of a state reporting office on antigypsyism.

In addition, the Bavarian state budget provides for annual allocations for the implementation of the agreement concluded between the Federal Government and the federal states to preserve the graves of Sinti and Roma persecuted under the Nazi regime. In 2023, 88,300 euros were allocated for this in the Bavarian state budget; these funds will also (co-)finance, among other things, the establishment and operation of a state reporting office on antigypsyism.

The **federal state of Berlin** provides funding to the Berlin-Brandenburg Association of Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma – Landesverband Berlin-Brandenburg e. V.) in the amount of 161,581 euros. The Dreilinden caravan site for travelling German Sinti and Roma, which is run by the by the Association for Preserving the Culture of German Sinti and Roma (Verein zum Erhalt der Kultur Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V.), is financed in the amount of 169,963 euros.

The **Free Hanseatic City of Bremen** supports the Bremen Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma – Landesverband Bremen e. V.) as part of permanent institutional funding in the amount of 89,850 euros per year. The municipal council of the city of Bremerhaven also supports the Bremerhaven office with funding of currently around 24,853 euros.

The Senate of the **Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg** continues to implement numerous support measures, which are also regularly included in Germany's reports on the implementation of the EU Roma Strategic Framework. For example, Hamburg's Authority for Labour, Health, Social Affairs, Family and Integration (Behörde für Arbeit, Gesundheit, Soziales, Familie und Integration) is supporting Sinti and Roma by promoting services offered by the Rom und Cinti Union e. V. (RCU), the Sinti Association for Supporting Children and Young people (Sinti-Vereins zur Förderung von Kindern und Jugendlichen e. V.) and the Hamburg Sinti Association (Landesverein (LV) der Sinti in Hamburg e. V.). The main purpose of this funding is to strengthen opportunities for the participation of Sinti and Roma, to support them in education and family matters and in developing career prospects, and to solidify participation in society as a whole.

The Hamburg Senate also provides support for introducing Sinti and Roma children to early childhood education. Six nursery training support workers, who are themselves members of the Sinti and Roma group, completed training during the reporting period as part of a funded measure lasting approximately 13 months, covering 300 theoretical hours and 300 practical hours. The role of nursery training support workers is to assist and advise families with the transition to nursery or in temporary childcare services, to mediate in conflicts and to carry out networking activities in the district. The intercultural work of the nursery training support workers enriches the nurseries and, in practice, is not strictly limited to Sinti and Roma as a target group. Support has been provided for up to two mother-child groups, in particular for Sinti and Roma families, where families are familiarised with the topics of nursery and school. These services are offered to small group sizes and include, for example, play and learning hours for children, services for parents to be shared with their children, low-threshold counselling for parents and referrals in the case of questions and problems.

In addition, each year, the funding programme for cultural and intercultural exchange (*Interkultureller Kulturaustausch*) of Hamburg's Authority for Culture and the Media (Behörde für Kultur und Medien) is also open to representatives of national minorities. Individual projects with a focus on combating antigypsyism are funded in this way on a regular basis. The KRASS Kultur Crash Festival, funded in 2023 with 100,000 euros, has been focusing increasingly on Sinti and Roma projects for ten years. In 2023, the Festival presented a programme of international theatre productions, performances, campaigns and music, as well as a congress format that addressed the situation of Sinti and Roma from an artistic and social point of view, discussing specific needs and demands.

Overall, annual funding provided by the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg to projects for Sinti and Roma continues to amount to approximately 1.60 million euros.

In addition, up until 2022, projects received funding from the European Social Fund in the amount of 116,00 euros per year, as well as individual funding, such as 12,196.95 euros which was raised by the Hamburg State Agency for Civic Education (Landeszentrale für politische Bildung) for 2023 for the "Two Worlds" (*Zwei Welten*) book project.

With the extension of the state treaty in the **federal state of Hesse**, institutional funding for the work of the office of the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V. – Landesverband Hessen) will be increased by 200,000 euros as of 2025, resulting in funding of 500,000 euros.

For 2023 and 2024, the funding remains at the previous amount of 300,000 euros. Projects run by the Association will – as before – receive 54,000 euros in funding per year. In addition, the amount earmarked for running the permanent exhibition on antigypsyism planned in Darmstadt will be increased from 50,000 euros to 150,000 euros per year due to the expected cost increases.

The centre will be set up in the Darmstadt city centre, where space will be made available by the city of Darmstadt. The lease agreement has already been signed between the city of Darmstadt and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma. The exhibition is not expected to open before 2025.

The permanent exhibition will focus on the history and impact of antigypsyism. This includes looking at the origin of stereotypes which have taken a hold for centuries as images

of gypsies (“*Zigeunerbilder*”), as well as the impact of these stereotypes on both the minority and on the majority society. A separate area will also address Nazi persecution through to genocide. The exhibition also includes the history of the civil rights movement of Sinti and Roma to the present day.

In the 2022/23 state budget of **Lower Saxony**, a total of 270,000 euros is allocated to the state’s Ministry for Social Affairs, Labour, Health and Equality for the purpose of promoting matters concerning Sinti and Roma. This includes funding of 220,000 euros per year for the Lower Saxony Counselling Bureau for Sinti and Roma (Niedersächsische Beratungsstelle für Sinti und Roma). A further 50,000 euros are allocated to various projects. In addition, funding from the general project funds of the federal state of Lower Saxony is possible.

Since 2020, Lower Saxony has also provided annual funding of 30,000 euros to the Academic Commissioner for Sater Frisian. The post is funded by the Oldenburgische Landschaft, a regional association. The 2022 Federal Budget Act made it possible to ensure continuous federal funding for the post of Commissioner for Sater Frisian at the Oldenburgische Landschaft and to extend it to a full-time position. Since 1 November 2022, the additional budget of the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community has enabled the post to be increased to a full-time post. In the 2023 financial year, the 50,000 euros in funding provided by the Federal Ministry will be fully co-financed by the state of Lower Saxony.

The **federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia** provides funding for an advisory and counselling office for Sinti and Roma at the North Rhine-Westphalia Association of German Sinti and Roma.

Since 1985, the state government has been promoting counselling for Sinti and Roma living in North Rhine-Westphalia under the responsibility of the North Rhine-Westphalia Association of German Sinti and Roma. The advisory and counselling office in Düsseldorf provides services for the members of the minority living in North Rhine-Westphalia and mediates between the minority, the majority society and their respective institutions. The state funding is granted as project funding for staff and material expenses for the counselling services. This funding amounted to around 246,000 euros in 2019, around 288,000 euros in 2022 and increased to around 326,000 euros in 2023.

During the reporting period, the **federal state of Rhineland-Palatinate** has made available for the first time project funds to promote the culture and Romani language of German Sinti and Roma. The relevant funding guidelines were published in the Ministerial Gazette of the state government of Rhineland-Palatinate, 5 April 2023. Please refer also to the comments in *section C.I.3. of Germany's Fifth Report*.

The framework agreement between the state government of **Saarland** and the Saarland Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V. – Landesverband Saarland) provides for financing for an office of the Association. The funding currently amounts to 50,000 euros per year. The Saarland Association of German Sinti and Roma receives funding for staff and material expenses and applications for funding are granted, subject to the available budget, for projects addressing the historical legacy of the Sinti and Roma, projects to protect and preserve the Romani minority language and projects in the cultural and social spheres.

In 2022 and 2023, the Saarland Ministry for Education and Culture (Ministerium für Bildung und Kultur; MBK) allocated a budget of 20,000 euros per year to the Saarland Association of German Sinti and Roma for the implementation of measures in the field of general and civic education for adults.

The Romano Sumnal Association of Sinti and Roma (Romano Sumnal e. V. – Verband der Roma und Sinti in Sachsen) in Leipzig is currently the only regional representation of Sinti and Roma in **Saxony** and, as a regional association, it is a member of the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma (Zentralrat Deutscher Sinti und Roma). For the first time, the 2021/22 budget in the Free State of Saxony allocated expenses for an interest group of the Sinti and Roma as a recognised minority. From 22 November 2021 to 31 December 2021, the Romano Sumnal Association in Leipzig allocated funding in the amount of 15,000 euros. The project funding of 98,007 euros in 2022 was mainly aimed at further developing the interest group of Sinti and Roma in Saxony into a regional association. The aim was to strengthen and professionalise the interest group in terms of structural and functional organisation. With the adoption of the 2023/24 budget, the funds made available for this purpose have been increased and consolidated, so that in both years a budget of 120,000 euros is available to promote the interest group of Sinti and Roma in Saxony. The project funding

of the Romano Sumnal Association for 2023 amounts to 117,489 euros and aims to develop, with three pilot projects, the systematic imparting of knowledge on the emergence and spread of the different manifestations of antigypsyism in schools and educational institutions, as well as research on the history of antigypsyism. This objective is in line with the National Strategic Framework “Tackling Antigypsyism, Ensuring Participation” (*Antiziganismus bekämpfen, Teilhabe sichern*) on implementing the 2020-2030 EU Roma Strategic Framework in Germany and the report of the Federal Government’s Independent Commission on Antigypsyism.

The **federal state of Schleswig-Holstein** steadily increased its support for national minorities and ethnic groups during the reporting period. In particular, the creation of the Foundation for the Frisian Ethnic Group in the Federal State of Schleswig-Holstein (Friesenstiftung) significantly increased the promotion of the Frisian ethnic group, adapting structurally to their needs and requests.

With the Friesenstiftung Act of 13 January 2020 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances, p. 4), the Friesenstiftung had assets of 2,155,099.89 euros. This foundation capital increases annually by the amounts and other assets received by the Foundation. In addition, the Friesenstiftung performs its tasks from the proceeds of the Foundation’s assets, from contributions from third parties and from annual grants from the Federal Republic of Germany and the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein in accordance with the respective budget laws (see section 3 of the Friesenstiftung Act).

At the same time, the Schleswig-Holstein Act on the Implementation of the Interstate Treaty on Gambling in Germany of 2021 (*Glücksspielstaatsvertrag, GlüStV 2021 AG SH*) established a fixed percentage of duty to be paid to the federal state by NordwestLotto Schleswig-Holstein. In accordance with the respective budget laws, these funds are intended to increase the assets of the Friesenstiftung or to fulfil the purpose of the Friesenstiftung (see section 7 (4) (5) and section 8 (5) of the Friesenstiftung Act). This has led to a substantial increase in funding for this ethnic group in the long term.

For 2022, the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein, through its Ministry for Education, granted 1,039,500 euros to the Friesenstiftung, of which 161,700 euros were used to increase the Foundation’s assets. The remaining funds were used to fulfil the purpose of the Friesenstiftung, mainly providing institutional and project funding to Frisian associations

and individuals. In 2023, the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein allocated 874,100 euros in its budget for funding the Friesenstiftung, while further funds of an estimated 327,700 euros have been provided from lottery duty to increase the Friesenstiftung's assets or as a means of fulfilling the Foundation's purpose. With regard to grants provided by the Friesenstiftung through funds from the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media, please refer to the Federal Government Commissioner's previous comments.

A target and performance agreement was concluded between the South Schleswig Association (Sydslesvigsk Forening e. V.; SSF), which is an institution of the Danish Secretary General, and the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein from 2019 to 2022. This agreement reinforced the commitment of the federal state and the South Schleswig Association to maintain and develop the Danish language and culture in Schleswig-Holstein. The South Schleswig Association and the federal state are also working together to strengthen cooperation and interaction between communities. The South Schleswig Association therefore sees itself as a cultural ambassador of the Danish minority vis-à-vis the majority German population.

The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein granted institutional funding to the South Schleswig Association for the 2019 to 2022 financial years, initially amounting to 551,000 euros per year, increasing to 591,000 euros in 2022. For 2023 and subsequent years, instead of a target and performance agreement, a multi-year funding approval was issued, providing the South Schleswig Association with planning certainty. This annual institutional funding, which the South Schleswig Association distributes in part to affiliated associations for their operation or for individual projects, is also expected to include institutional funding for the Danevirke Museum as of 2023 to support it in its operation. This will amount to 133,000 euros, meaning that the total South Schleswig Association funding will amount to 739,000 euros annually.

Danish schools have a special position among the private schools in Schleswig-Holstein, as they are to be financed by the federal state in accordance with Article 12 (5) of the state constitution, in line with the financing of public schools. These schools have a particular significance for the Danish minority, who consider these schools to be their regular schools, the "public schools" for the minority. Since 2019, the Danish Schools Association (Dänischer Schulverein) has received a grant based on the number of pupils, differentiated by type of

school and, where appropriate, funding needs. This grant increased steadily during the reporting period. This is due to consistently higher cost-per-pupil rates compared to the previous year.

Under the Budget Support Act (*Haushaltsbegleitgesetz, HBegleitG*) of 2021, the pupil transport allowance for Danish schools was increased from 200 euros, plus annual updates, to 300 euros according to the consumer price index (section 124 (2) of the Schleswig-Holstein Schools Act (*Schulgesetz Schleswig-Holstein, SchulG SH*)). It is therefore more than twice as high as the pupil transport allowance for other independent schools.

Under section 119 (4) of the Schleswig-Holstein Schools Act, there is a rule that only pupils who live in Schleswig-Holstein under registration law or who come from another federal state for which a host school agreement exists are taken into account when subsidising schools of the Danish minority and other independent schools. Such an agreement currently exists only with Hamburg. This rule was omitted in 2021 for the schools of the Danish minority (amendment to section 124 (2) sentence 3 of the Schleswig-Holstein Schools Act). This took account of the special position of schools belonging to the Danish minority. In addition, equal treatment has been achieved with the schools of the German minority in Denmark, which also receive grants from the Danish government for pupils who live in Germany.

During the reporting period, the federal state's financial support for the Schleswig-Holstein Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma e.V. – Landesverband Schleswig-Holstein) remained unchanged. It had already been established in the 2015 budget that, in addition to the institutional funding of 216,500 euros per year, the Association would receive project funds from the revenue from lottery duty. The amount of these funds varies from year to year, but now stands at 327,700 euros (289,300 euros in the 2019 budget). The projects supported by these funds are, to a large extent, those already mentioned in *Germany's Fifth Report on the Framework Convention*. In addition, there are small projects such as readings or panel discussions, which alternate every year. From 2023 onwards, the Sinti Union Schleswig-Holstein e. V. will also be supported. The aim is to set up an office to support an additional institution for cultural work and an interest group of the minority of German Sinti and Roma. An amount of 60,000 euros is planned for this purpose in 2023.

In addition, since 2017, the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein has continuously made funds available to local public youth welfare bodies for the promotion of regional and minority languages in child childcare. In the 2021 budget, the overall budget for this was increased to 575,000 euros per year. These funds are intended to promote regular use of the respective regional and minority languages in childcare.

Table 1: Development of financial support for national minorities and ethnic groups in Schleswig-Holstein

	2019 Actual funding in euros	2020 Actual funding in euros	2021 Actual funding in euros	2022 Budget	2023 Budget
Frisian ethnic group	656,100	642,100	985,800	1,169,500	1,261,800
Danish minority	39,083,900	40,876,400	44,074,300	45,828,800	46,966,600
Sinti and Roma	486,900	662,700	660,600	792,800	861,100

The RomnoKher Association of German Sinti and Roma in **Thuringia** (Landesverband der Sinti und Roma RomnoKher Thüringen e. V.) is the only organisation in Thuringia that deals with the concerns and interests of Sinti and Roma – mainly allochthonous, but also autochthonous Sinti and Roma. This Association has received project funding from Thuringia’s Anti-Discrimination Agency (Landesantidiskriminierungsstelle) at the State Chancellery of Thuringia (Thüringer Staatskanzlei) since 2019; funding in 2021 was in the amount of 165,581 euros and in 2022 in the amount of 111,373 euros. Funds of 174,600 euros are available in the 2023 financial year. However, the RomnoKher Association is not an explicit interest group of German Sinti and Roma in Thuringia.

II. Annual implementation conference

The implementation of the Framework Convention and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (Language Charter) is accompanied by annual implementation conferences held at the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community. These conferences are attended by: the federal ministries tasked with the protection of minorities and of minority and regional languages; the responsible state authorities; the associations and organisations of the minorities and language groups protected by the Convention and Charter, and their research institutions.

During the 2019 implementation conference, individual recommendations of the Committee of Experts on Germany's Sixth Report on implementing the Language Charter, as well as individual recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Germany's Fifth Report on the Framework Convention (fight against racism and intolerance, minority language in the media and knowledge of national minorities in schools) were addressed. There was also an exchange on the status of the implementation of the Online Access Act (*Onlinezugangsgesetz*, OZG). This conference was attended by a representative of the Secretariat of the Language Charter.

In consultation with the Standing Conference of Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany (Kultusministerkonferenz; KMK), the 2021 implementation conference focused on imparting knowledge across Germany on the four national minorities and the regional language of Low German in the curricula of schools offering general education.

During the 2022 implementation conference, specific recommendations by the Council of Europe's Advisory Committee and Committee of Experts were discussed in the presence of the Secretariats of the Framework Convention and the Language Charter.

The main focus of the discussion on the Framework Convention was Recommendation No. 14 on ensuring the full application of the Framework Convention in all federal states and Recommendation No. 19, which invites the Federal Republic of Germany to enter into a dialogue with representatives of national minorities on the collection of disaggregated data on the status and exercise of the rights of members of national minorities.

III. Brochure published by the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community

To raise public awareness of Germany's national minorities and their languages, the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community produces a brochure entitled "National minorities, minority and regional languages in Germany", the fourth edition of which was published in 2021.

IV. Measures to disclose the results of the fifth monitoring cycle

Germany's Sixth Report on the Framework Convention was sent to the Secretariat of the Committee on Internal Affairs and Community of the German Bundestag and to the Secretariat of the Committee on Internal Affairs of the Bundesrat, following its adoption by the Federal Cabinet.

The **Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community** refers to its comments *in sections A, C.I.7, C.II. and C.III.* In addition, the Opinion of the Advisory Committee on the fifth monitoring cycle was sent to the associations of national minorities in Germany after publication.

In **Berlin**, the Framework Convention is the subject of cooperation with the Brandenburg Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V. – Landesverband Berlin-Brandenburg e. V.) and the Association for Preserving the Culture of German Sinti and Roma (Verein zum Erhalt der Kultur deutsche Sinti und Roma).

Separate information about the Framework Convention is also provided as part of the planned Advisory Council for Matters Relating to Roma and Sinti (Beirat für Angelegenheiten der Roma und Sinti).

In the **federal state of Baden-Württemberg**, the state government's cooperation with the minority of German Sinti and Roma is portrayed on the website of the state minister of the state ministry. The page provides links to the Framework Convention and the latest reports for further information.

The **federal state of Brandenburg** publishes the references to the Framework Convention and the Language Charter on its minority-related websites and links the website of the Council of Europe where the reports and opinions can be found.

The **Free Hanseatic City of Bremen** has not taken any separate measures to provide information on the Framework Convention or the Opinion of the Council of Europe's Advisory Committee.

The Senate of the **Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg** is currently preparing an overall strategy to fight antigypsyism and to promote equal participation of Sinti and Roma in Hamburg (*Gesamtstrategie zur Bekämpfung des Antiziganismus und zur Förderung der gleichberechtigten Teilhabe der Sinti und Roma in Hamburg*).

In doing so, the Hamburg Senate attaches the greatest importance to working in partnership with civil society and to the involvement of civil society; see the document of the Hamburg parliament: 22/5772 and 22/10815.⁸

For example, the regional associations of German Sinti and Roma and other representatives of the national minority, state authorities and the majority society are involved in the development of the strategy. In addition to the new EU Roma Strategic Framework and the findings of the Independent Commission on Antigypsyism (Unabhängige Kommission Antiziganismus; UKA), the opinions and recommendations of the Council of Europe regarding the monitoring cycles will also be taken into account.

As part of the state treaty between the **federal state of Hesse** and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma – Landesverband Hessen e. V.), an agreement establishing a body for minority affairs was established. The body's main tasks include regularly evaluating the implementation of the objectives of the state treaty

⁸ https://www.buergerschaft-hh.de/parldok/dokument/77222/gesamtstrategie_zur_bekaempfung_des_antiziganismus_und_zur_foerderung_der_gleichberechtigten_teilhabe_der_sinti_und_rom_nja_in_hamburg.pdf and https://www.buergerschaft-hh.de/parldok/dokument/82666/buergerschaftliches_ersuchen_vom_29_september_2021_gesamtstrategie_zur_bekaempfung_des_antiziganismus_und_zur_foerderung_der_gleichberechtigten_teilha.pdf (as at 11 October 2023)

and discussing current issues concerning the minority and the majority population. This body convenes once a year.

The **federal state of Rhineland-Palatinate** reports that more information on the four national minorities in Germany and in relation to the Framework Convention is available on the website of the State Ministry of the Interior and for Sport (Ministerium des Innern und für Sport)⁹. A link can be found to the Germany's reports on the Framework Convention and to the corresponding Council of Europe opinions.

The opinions of the Advisory Committee and the related ministerial recommendation are published in **Saarland** in the German language by the *Familie und Gleichstellung* portal of the State Ministry for Labour, Social Affairs, Women and Health (Ministerium für Arbeit, Soziales, Frauen und Gesundheit; MASFG). The portal addresses topics and current issues relating to family, women, integration and gender-equality policies. The framework agreement between the state government of Saarland and the Saarland Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V. – Landesverband Saarland) and other relevant documents are available on the website of Saarland's Ministry for Labour, Social Affairs, Women and Health.¹⁰

By publishing such information, the federal state is fulfilling its obligation to provide information.

In the **federal state of Schleswig-Holstein**, Germany's Fifth Report on the Framework Convention and the Opinion of the Advisory Committee of the Council of Europe were sent to the state parliament for information. Both briefing letters from the Minister-President of 28 March 2019 and 9 August 2022 are published on the state parliament's website: Briefing 19/132 (5th Report on the Framework Convention)¹¹ and Briefing 20/10 (Fifth Opinion of

⁹ <https://mdi.rlp.de/themen/buerger-und-staat/nationale-minderheiten> (as at 11 October 2023)

¹⁰ https://www.saarland.de/masfg/DE/portale/familiengleichstellung/famileleistungenaz/integration/integrationspolitik/integrationspolitik_node.html (as at 11 October 2023)

¹¹ <https://www.landtag.ltsh.de/infothek/wahl19/unterrichtungen/00100/unterrichtung-19-00132.pdf> (as at 11 October 2023)

the Advisory Committee)¹², as well as on the *Transparenzportal* website of the state government¹³. These briefings are thus permanently available to the public.

At the meeting of the Schleswig-Holstein state parliament's European Affairs Committee on 14 September 2022, the Fifth Opinion of the Advisory Committee was also presented by the Minorities Commissioner of the State of Schleswig-Holstein and discussed by the members of the state parliament. The committee meetings of the Schleswig-Holstein state parliament are public and broadcast live via the radio station *ParlaRadio*.

The Opinion of the Advisory Committee was discussed between the ***Free State of Thuringia*** and the RomnoKher Association of German Sinti and Roma in Thuringia (Landesverband der Sinti und Roma RomnoKher Thüringen e. V.).

¹² <https://www.landtag.ltsh.de/infothek/wahl20/unterrichtungen/00000/unterrichtung-20-00010.pdf> (as at 11 October 2023)

¹³ https://transparenz.schleswig-holstein.de/dataset/f16a7460-dd32-4974-8407-871636e3849b/re-source/923589e6-a9bb-4fec-888a-e184b294e9ff/download/bersendung-5.-staatenbericht_barrierefrei.pdf und <https://transparenz.schleswig-holstein.de/dataset/20b03dd2-0915-4744-a3bf-496b9d17a28e/re-source/771f648d-4513-4f11-9b6b-a3ebb8a550f1/download/stellungnahme-5.-staatenbericht-rahmenbereinkommen.pdf> (as at 11 October 2023)

D. The Advisory Committee's assessments

The Advisory Committee published its Opinion on the assessment of the implementation of the Framework Convention in the Federal Republic of Germany on the basis of Germany's Fifth Report and the related fifth country visit to Germany on 14 June 2022. The following comments refer to the individual findings of the Advisory Committee in regard to the relevant article of the Framework Convention.

I. Article 3

1. Scope of application of the Framework Convention

The Advisory Committee encourages the authorities to continue their pragmatic approach to the application of the citizenship criterion. The authorities should extend this approach to Sinti and Roma without German citizenship by applying the provisions of the Framework Convention on an article-by-article basis in close consultation with representatives of the groups concerned. (Nos. 34 – 38)

The **Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community** (Bundesministerium des Innern und für Heimat; BMI) points out that the Framework Convention does not contain a definition of a national minority. It is therefore up to the individual contracting parties to determine arbitrarily the groups to which the Framework Convention shall apply after ratification. In this context, the Ministry refers to the comments *in section A.*, which are aligned with the content of the Federal Republic of Germany's most recent reports submitted under the Framework Convention. There have been no developments in the position of the German authorities concerning the scope of application of the Framework Convention.

In the spirit of the Framework Convention, Germany recognises the following autochthonous minorities in Germany as national minorities: the Danish minority, the Frisian ethnic group, the Sorbian people, and the German Sinti and Roma. These are specifically entitled to protection and promotion under the Framework Convention because they live in what have for hundreds of years been their traditional settlement areas and which are in the territory that today constitutes the Federal Republic of Germany, and should be able to preserve their language and culture there. The Federal Government and the federal legislator have therefore set out the relevant criteria for recognition as a national minority. Based on this,

population groups are recognised as national minorities in Germany when they meet the following five criteria:

- The members of the group are German nationals;
- they differ from the majority population in that they have their own language, culture and history, i.e. their own identity;
- they wish to maintain this identity;
- they have traditionally been resident in Germany (in most cases, for centuries) and
- they live in Germany within traditional settlement areas.

As in Germany only the autochthonous minorities that live here are recognised as national minorities for the purposes of the Framework Convention, the criterion of German citizenship is essential.

The ***federal state of Schleswig-Holstein*** adds that the example of a flexible approach to nationality criterion given by the Advisory Committee does not apply to persons belonging to the Danish minority. The authorities in Schleswig-Holstein do not verify nationality or membership of the Danish minority. This would be contrary to the fundamental right of individuals to identify themselves as members of a national minority. The state government therefore has no information as to whether and to what extent Danish nationals make use of offers from Danish minority organisations. When using the Danish language to communicate with public authorities pursuant to section 82 (b) of the State Administration Act (*Landesverwaltungsgesetz, LVwG*), the nationality of the applicant is not checked either.

2. Recognition as a national minority – Poles

The Advisory Committee encourages the authorities to continue to follow a pragmatic article-by-article approach on the implementation of the Framework Convention vis-à-vis the Polish community in close consultation with its representatives and to consider their request for national minority status. (Nos. 39 – 42)

The criteria listed in section *D.I.1* include the aspect of national minorities having their home traditionally in Germany, which is what distinguishes them from immigrants who

have not traditionally lived in Germany. Groups of migrants and their descendants therefore do not have the status of a national minority in Germany.

Persons of Polish origin holding German nationality are not recognised as a national minority. Citizens of Polish origin in Germany do not fulfil the criteria for recognition as a national minority in Germany, as they are not traditionally resident in Germany. Instead their ancestors migrated to the territory that is today the Federal Republic of Germany, often as late as the 19th century or even later, for example as migrant workers to the Ruhr region, which means that they also do not live in traditional settlement areas in the Federal Republic of Germany.

The question, often refuted in scientific literature, of whether German citizens of Polish origin had the status of a national minority in the German Reich (so before the founding of the Federal Republic of Germany) is ultimately irrelevant for the question of the recognition of German citizens of Polish origin as a national minority in Germany today.

The territorial changes following World War II mean that those areas of the former German Reich in which people of Polish origin traditionally settled (for example Upper Silesia and East Prussia) and which could have provided a territorial point of reference for the minority status of people of Polish origin in the German Reich are no longer German territory. This means that they can no longer serve as such a point of reference for minority status in the Federal Republic of Germany.

In addition to this, it is not possible to extrapolate a right to minority status today from the legal situation prior to the founding of the Federal Republic of Germany. The status of the national minorities in Europe was thoroughly revised across Europe by the Framework Convention in 1995. In this context, the Federal Republic of Germany set out specific criteria for the recognition of a population group as a national minority. Polish-based Germans and Polish nationals in Germany do not meet the criteria laid down by the federal legislator and the Federal Government (*see section D.I.1*). Please also see the comments *in section A of this report and the comments in section D.I of Germany's Fourth Report on the Framework Convention*.

3. Recognition as a national minority – Yenish

The Advisory Committee calls on the authorities to enter into a dialogue with Yenish representatives on their request for recognition as a national minority. (Nos. 43 – 47)

The current Federal Government Commissioner for Matters Related to Ethnic German Resettlers and National Minorities, as well as her predecessor, started a dialogue with representatives of the Yenish people.

During the discussions, the issue recognising the Yenish people as a national minority was also discussed at length. The Council of Europe Explanatory Report to the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities let ratifying states define the term “national minority” themselves. The scope of the Framework Convention has been defined for Germany by an interpretative declaration by the Federal Government (*see section D.I.1*). The Federal Government continues to take the view that the criteria laid down by the Federal Government with regard to recognition as a national minority are not met by the Yenish people. In addition, the Yenish people have so far not provided any researched-based evidence on the history of the Yenish people and the Yenish language that support their view of themselves as a separate ethnic group with its own language, which differs from the Federal Government's assessment. The evaluation of 27 March 2023 commissioned by the Federal Government Commissioner for Matters Related to Ethnic German Resettlers and National Minorities, titled “A linguistic study of the Yenish people”¹⁴ (*Zur sprachwissenschaftliche Erforschung des Jenischen*), which was carried out by the Research Services of the German Bundestag, cannot clearly demonstrate proof of an independent language either.

In 2021, a preliminary meeting was held between the **Hesse Ministry for Social Affairs and Integration** (Ministerium für Soziales und Integration; HMSI) and the Central Council of Yenish (Zentralrat der Jenischen), where an offer for further dialogue was made. To date, this offer has not been taken up.

¹⁴ <https://www.bundestag.de/resource/blob/955530/10eb20f474c66e9dfa8191daa3b13dba/WD-1-004-23-pdf-data.pdf> (as at 11 October 2023)

II. Article 4

1. Federal responsibility for the protection of national minorities

The Advisory Committee urges the authorities to take the necessary legal, policy and administrative measures to ensure the full application of the Framework Convention across all Länder. (Nos. 48 – 55)

a. Policy and/or legislation implementing the recommendation

- The implementation conferences are an important tool for advancing the full application of the two agreements in Germany. The implementation of Germany's commitments is discussed at the implementation conference once a year, together with representatives of the responsible authorities of the federal states and the umbrella associations of national minorities in Germany and, with regard to the Language Charter, the Low German language group (*see also section C.II.*). **(Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community)**
- Participation opportunities for national minorities are firmly anchored at federal level: Communication between the national minorities in Germany and the Low German language group on the one hand with federal policy-makers and the federal administration on the other hand has been institutionalised in the form of consultative committees established at the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community to address issues concerning the Danish minority, the Sorbian people, the Frisian ethnic group, the German Sinti and Roma and the Low German language group. They usually meet once a year to discuss issues concerning the different groups. This gives each of these groups its very own forum where they can communicate their interests to representatives from government and parliament and where joint solutions for their concerns can be discussed and acted on. All five committees are chaired by the Federal Government Commissioner for Matters Related to Ethnic German Resettlers and National Minorities. **(Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community)**
- For Baden-Württemberg, please refer to the *comments in section C.I.1.* with regard to the new state treaty with the Baden-Württemberg Association of German

Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma – Landesverband Baden-Württemberg e. V.), which entered into force on 5 January 2019. (***Baden-Württemberg***)

- Please refer to the comments on the amending agreement with the Bavaria Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma – Landesverband Baden-Württemberg e. V.) in section *C.I.1.* (***Bavaria***)
- Please refer to the comments on the development of the overall strategy to fight antigypsyism and to promote equal participation of Sinti and Roma in Hamburg in section *C.IV.* In addition, combating antigypsyism and strengthening the participation of Sinti and Roma in society has been of particular importance to the Hamburg Senate for years. The Senate aims to effectively improve the protection of minorities – including the protection of Sinti and Roma – in the various areas of society and to combat racism against Sinti and Roma. In this sense, in its 2019 state programme for preventing and combating right-wing extremism titled “Hamburg – A city with courage” (*Hamburg – Stadt mit Courage*) (Hamburg Parliament Documents 21/18643 and 20/9849¹⁵), the Senate stresses that it considers the commitment to combating hostile attitudes and actions and to diversity and democratic coexistence as a long-term task of the state and civil society as a whole. (***Hamburg***)
- As part of the public information campaign “Hesse – There’s more to be done” (*Hessen. Da geht noch was*), the federal state of Hesse provides information on the General Equal Treatment Act (*Allgemeine Gleichbehandlungsgesetz, AGG*) and on existing counselling services regarding anti-discrimination which are funded by the federal state. (***Hesse***)

¹⁵ https://www.buergerschaft-hh.de/parldok/dokument/68324/landesprogramm_hamburg_stadt_mit_courage_vorbeugung_und_bekaempfung_von_rechtsextremismus_2019_zugleich_stellungnahme_des_senats_zu_dem_ersuchen_der_b.pdf and https://www.buergerschaft-hh.de/parldok/dokument/42894/hamburg_stadt_mit_courage_landesprogramm_zur_foerderung_demokratischer_kultur_vorbeugung_und_bekaempfung_von_rechtsextremismus_und_stellungnahme_zu_de.pdf (as at 11 October 2023)

- Please refer to the comments in section *C.I.1.* of this report and to the comments in section *C.I.1. of Germany's Fifth Report (Rhineland-Palatinate)*.
 - Please refer to the comments in section *C.I.1. (Saarland)*
 - In its 2021/22 budget, the Free State of Saxony allocated expenses for the relevant interest group of Sinti and Roma as a recognised minority for the first time. With the adoption of the 2023/24 budget, the funds made available for this purpose were increased and consolidated (see *comments in section C.I.7.*). The intention is to strengthen the state government, the self-organisation of Sinti and Roma in Saxony and to increase the participation of the national minority. This provides the basis for the implementation of the Framework Convention. (**Saxony**)
- b. Practical measures and other relevant developments in implementing the recommendation**
- The Free Hanseatic City of Bremen is setting up the necessary structures for full application of the Framework Convention. These include the measures listed below in areas such as protection against discrimination (see comments in section *D.IV.3.*), education (see comments in section *D.XII.2.*) and the media (see comments in section *D.VI.2.*). (**Bremen**)
 - For almost seven years, the federal state of Hesse has been promoting an independent counselling service for those affected by discrimination. The ADiBe Network of Hesse (*ADiBe Netzwerk Hessen*) provides free, low-threshold psychosocial and legal advice in the federal state. Regional anti-discrimination networks, known as *AdiNetze*, are also funded; their tasks include public relations work, networking, awareness-raising and prevention, and empowering those affected. (**Hesse**)
 - The Hesse Academy of Justice (Justizakademie Hessen) offers various training courses on racism and hate crime, such as the fight against right-wing extremism, hate speech, justice in National Socialism, and intercultural competence, especially in everyday life at court. There is also a compulsory self-study programme for all employees under the General Equal Treatment Act. (**Hesse**)
 - On a cross-border basis, the German Judicial Academy (Deutsche Richterakademie) provides training courses for judges and public prosecutors on issues such

as intercultural competence, lessons learned from Germany's Nazi past, justice in National Socialism and the reappraisal thereof, right-wing extremism and neo-Nazism.

Training courses are developed according to specific needs. No information is available on the extent to which the training measures offered by the state judicial authorities would contribute to the protection of national minorities or would be necessary for this protection if these measures were better coordinated by the Federal Government. (*Hesse*)

- State, constitutional and human rights issues and conventions are discussed as part of the training of the staff of the Hesse corrections system.

The following human rights issues in particular, including discrimination and racism, are currently addressed and referred to in training courses in Hesse's correction system:

- Fundamental rights
- UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular Articles 5, 10 and 11
- Nelson Mandela Rules
- UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners
- European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), in particular Articles 3, 5 and 6
- European Prison Rules, in particular points 1, 3, 8, 72.2, 72.3, 75, and 102.2
- Council of Europe recommendations on pre-trial detention (6 and 43) and juvenile justice (18, 81, 132)
- Essential content of the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials (Council of Europe) and the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- Procedural principles in pre-trial detention
- Rules of conduct and obligations of officials under civil service law

- Various content specifically on intercultural skills, the integration of certain groups of prisoners, the recognition of and fight against right-wing extremism and the treatment of prisoners. (*Hesse*)
 - Development of cooperation with the RomnoKher Association of German Sinti and Roma in Thuringia (Landesverband der Sinti und Roma RomnoKher Thüringen e. V.) by increasing and ensuring the promotion of the Association. (*Thuringia*)
- c. **Data, statistics or information to assess the impact of the measures taken**
- Figures and reports submitted in the context of verifying the use of funds for the RomnoKher Association. (*Thuringia*)
 - *Thüringen Monitor*, an annual population survey on political culture in the Free State of Thuringia which has been in place since 2000; every year, the focus is on the study of far-right attitudes, democracy acceptance, democracy satisfaction, institutional trust and the political participation of the Thuringian population. (*Thuringia*)

2. Legal framework for combating discrimination

The Advisory Committee urges the authorities to close gaps in the non-discrimination legislation at federal and Länder levels and notably to extend non-discrimination legislation to the public sector, include language as a ground of discrimination, fully prohibit unequal treatment also in the housing sector, introduce the right for associations to represent victims in court and to consider the possibility of allowing collective complaints. (Nos. 56 – 66)

The **Federal Ministry of Justice** (Bundesministerium der Justiz; BMJ) notes that the comments in the Opinion of the Council of Europe’s Advisory Committee on the section “Legal framework for combating discrimination” are not (entirely) correct from an administrative procedural point of view. For example, No. 60 states: “There is also no possibility for collective action (Verbandsklage) by minority associations.” However, in the footnote for this, the following is stated: “The possibility for collective action by associations exists in environmental law and on consumer protection.”

In principle, in administrative procedural law, no provision is made for private associations, organisations or other legal persons to bring a collective action because such a possibility

has so far been largely alien to the German system of legal protection, which is designed to protect individual rights. However, collective actions are admissible on the basis of specific legal provisions (see section 42 (2) of the Code of Administrative Court Procedure (*Verwaltungsgerichtsordnung, VwGO*)) and are currently recognised not only in the area of environmental law referred to in the report but also in animal welfare law (see the Act on Participation Rights and the Right of Recognised Animal Welfare Organisations to Take Legal Action (*Gesetz über Mitwirkungsrechte und das Verbandsklagerecht für anerkannte Tierschutzorganisationen, TierSchMVG BW*)) and, in particular, in disability equality law (see section 15 of the Act on Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (*Behindertengleichstellungsgesetz, BGG*)). For example, the right of collective action under section 15 of the Act on Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities takes account of the fact that infringements of provisions of that Act are rarely brought before the courts by the persons concerned.

In addition, whether further special rules on rights of collective action should be adopted to fill gaps in the fight against discrimination (request of the Advisory Committee of the Council of Europe) will have to be assessed primarily from the point of view of substantive specialised law, taking into account the relevant provisions of European law and not from the point of view of procedural law.

The ***Free State of Bavaria*** points out that the federal states and the district administrative authorities responsible for enforcing trade regulations (which are within the competence of the federal states) have no legal instrument at their disposal to penalise even flagrant breaches of the General Equal Treatment Act (*Allgemeines Gleichbehandlungsgesetz, AGG*). The lack of a right of collective action has already been pointed out. Please refer to the comments in *section E.II.2. of Germany's Fifth Report*.

Language is part of Article 2 (3) of the constitution of ***Thuringia*** (equal treatment), as well as origin, descent and ethnicity. The Free State of Thuringia is in favour of amending the General Equal Treatment Act with regard to the above points. The introduction of a state anti-discrimination act in Thuringia is currently under consideration.

a. **Policy and/or legislation implementing the recommendation**

- There are no known substantive gaps in anti-discrimination law that relate specifically to the housing market. In fact, unequal treatment or discrimination may occur in all areas of life. They are prohibited under the existing provisions of the General Equal Treatment Act and may be prosecuted by affected individuals under civil law.

If there are gaps in protection or obstacles to the enforcement of legal claims, they would have to continue to apply to a large number of private-law situations, as already intended with the existing rules. This includes the housing sector and thus tenancy rights.

The Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building (Bundesministerium für Wohnen, Stadtentwicklung und Bauwesen; BMWWSB) welcomes amendments to anti-discrimination law that are appropriate to eliminate disadvantages and discrimination in the housing market and is willing to support the lead authority if further development of anti-discrimination law is envisaged.

(Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building)

- In 2022, the Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency (Antidiskriminierungsstelle des Bundes; ADS) was strengthened as a key player for effective anti-discrimination protection in Germany; its leadership was appointed Independent Federal Anti-Discrimination Commissioner, a post which is elected by the Bundestag for five years. Furthermore, in the coalition agreement for the 20th parliamentary term, a more extensive reform of the General Equal Treatment Act has been agreed which would close any gaps, improve legal protection and extend the scope of the General Equal Treatment Act. ***(ADS Bund)***
- In accordance with the coalition agreement “Today for Tomorrow” (*Jetzt für morgen*), the state government of ***Baden-Württemberg*** aims to create a legislative framework in the current parliamentary term in order to effectively prevent discrimination in the area of public-law administration and to further strengthen trust between citizens and all public bodies of the federal state. In a free and democratic constitutional system, the principle of equality is the foundation for people treating each other with mutual respect and recognising each other’s

rights. This also applies in particular to the relationship between citizens and public officials. (*Baden-Württemberg*)

- Following the decision of the Berlin House of Representatives of 4 June 2020, the Berlin State Anti-Discrimination Act (*Landesantidiskriminierungsgesetz, LADG*) entered into force on 21 June 2020.

The Berlin State Anti-Discrimination Act closes gaps in protection against discrimination when it comes to action taken by the authorities of the federal state of Berlin under public law, thus implementing the Anti-Discrimination Directives of the EU. It establishes claims for damages for citizens affected by discrimination and specifies protection against discrimination in the public sphere. The Berlin State Anti-Discrimination Act applies directly to the entire Berlin administration. The prohibition of discrimination goes beyond the aspects protected by the General Equal Treatment Act to include antisemitic views, chronic illness, language, gender identity and social status. The catalogue of grounds for discrimination takes into account intersectional discrimination (multidimensionality of discrimination). In order to improve shortcomings in the implementation of anti-discrimination law, the Berlin State Anti-Discrimination Act regulates not only the possibility for affected individuals to bring action, but also a right of collective action. (*Berlin*)

- In the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen, a state anti-discrimination agency (Landesantidiskriminierungsstelle) was created by the law on establishing a state anti-discrimination act (*Landesantidiskriminierungs-Errichtungsgesetz*). In their coalition agreement of 3 June 2023, Bremen's parliamentary groups also agreed to adopt a state anti-discrimination act, which would include a guaranteed right of anti-discrimination associations to act as advisers of disadvantaged persons in judicial proceedings. (*Bremen*)
- The bill to replace the term "race" in Hamburg state law (of 23 August 2022, Hamburg Parliament Document 22/9131¹⁶) provides that the right to education

¹⁶ https://www.buergerschaft-hh.de/parldok/dokument/80824/gesetz_zur_ersetzung_des_begriffs_rasse_im_hamburgischen_landesrecht.pdf (as at 11 October 2023)

also includes a school system that is free from racial discrimination. Promoting democracy and thus preventing inhumane attitudes at an early stage is an integral part of educational work in schools: The Hamburg Schools Act (*Hamburgisches Schulgesetz*, HmbSG) is fundamental to school education, in particular the general educational mission laid down in section 2 of the Hamburg Schools Act, which aligns education with the values of the Basic Law (*Grundgesetz*, GG) and the constitution of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg. It is also the responsibility of schools to empower and strengthen students' willingness to shape their relationships with other people based on the principles of respect and tolerance, justice, solidarity and gender equality, and to take responsibility for themselves and others, to participate in the shaping of a democratic society committed to humanity, and to promote peaceful coexistence of cultures, equality and the right of life of all. The general educational mission directly ties all educational professionals working in schools and teaching. The prevention of group-focused enmity such as antigypsyism and other forms is therefore a fundamental cross-cutting task of schools. (*Hamburg*)

- It is also a standard task of Hamburg's Institute for Teacher Training and School Development (Landesinstitut für Lehrerbildung und Schulentwicklung; LI) to provide training and guidance to teachers and schools in a needs- and demand-oriented manner in all the manifestations of group-focused enmity found in schools (e.g. antisemitism, racism, antigypsyism or forms of right-wing extremism). The services aim to strengthen the safety of schools and teachers with regard to challenging student behaviours and possible conflicts in the area of hostile and anti-democratic attitudes, and to extend existing in-school reporting routines to these areas. (*Hamburg*)
- Since August 2021, affected individuals (including teachers) can also report discriminatory experiences and/or measures to the counselling office for intercultural education (Beratungsstelle Interkulturelle Erziehung) of Hamburg's Institute for Teacher Training and School Development. The role of the counselling office is to deal with complaints in the area of anti-discrimination, to accompany

them in an advisory capacity and, preferably, to provide all parties with information in regard to these cases. However, direct complaints and/or reports by Sinti and Roma have so far not been received. However, Roma and Sinti participants report on their experiences as part of language and cultural training and educational guidance. The counselling office is aware that the vast majority of those affected by discrimination turn to their respective associations or organisations and consider them as community-based complaint offices. (**Hamburg**)

- Finally, Hamburg's current government programme provides for an examination of the feasibility of establishing a legal basis for an even more effective anti-discrimination policy. (**Hamburg**)
- Lower Saxony is explicitly committed to the Anti-Discrimination Directives of the EU and to the General Equal Treatment Act and will ensure that they are implemented consistently. Lower Saxony is creating a Lower Saxony Anti-discrimination Act, which will provide for comprehensive protection against discrimination from public institutions and creates legal rights. This new law will close gaps in legal protection between the General Equal Treatment Act and the Lower Saxony Equal Treatment Act (*Niedersächsisches Gleichberechtigungsgesetz, NGG*). Low-threshold opportunities are being created for those affected to tackle discrimination. (**Lower Saxony**)
- North Rhine-Westphalia has explicitly enshrined anti-discrimination as a task for the federal state by amending its Act on Promoting Social Participation and Integration (*Teilhabe- und Integrationsgesetz, TIntG*); this issue now has its own section in the law for the first time (section 7). According to the revised Act's Explanatory Memorandum, this will also specifically encompass antigypsyism. The new Act on several occasions makes explicit reference to antigypsyism, including in respect of updating and promoting antigypsyism activities (section 2 of the Act). (**North Rhine-Westphalia**)
- On the basis of an agreement in the coalition agreement between the governing parties for the 18th parliamentary term, the bill for a state law on equal opportunities, democracy and diversity is being developed. A 2017 legal opinion had

identified which legal requirements under the four Anti-Discrimination Directives of the EU, which were in force at the time, were to be implemented at state level.

The draft law aims to close the existing gaps in the protection against discrimination, which lie within the legislative competence of the federal state. The internal consultation process on the draft law is under preparation. (*Rhineland-Palatinate*)

- The state government of Schleswig-Holstein foresees in its working programme that the public administration is committed to the creation and enforcement of equal opportunities, the prevention and elimination of all forms of discrimination and the promotion of a culture of appreciation and diversity. Consideration will be given to improving the capacity of the public administration to detect, report and sanction discrimination or discriminatory tendencies. For this purpose, an anti-discrimination unit will be set up within the Schleswig-Holstein Ministry for Social Affairs, Youth, Family, Senior Citizens, Integration and Equality (Ministerium für Soziales, Jugend, Familie, Senioren, Integration und Gleichstellung; MSJFSIG), which will make legal adjustments or create regulations. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)
 - A guide against discrimination is being developed with the housing sector. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)
- b. Practical measures and other relevant developments in implementing the recommendation**
- The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein stresses that no person may be subjected to racism or discrimination on the grounds of origin, appearance, culture, skills, sexual orientation or religion. Together with tenants and partners in the housing sector, Schleswig-Holstein continues to take action against discrimination in the housing sector by continuing the “Living Pact” (*Pakt Wohnen*) in consultation with self-help organisations. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)
- c. Data, statistics or information to assess the impact of the measures taken**
- As explained in section *C.I.1.*, the Free State of Bavaria has been promoting the monitoring of antigypsyist incidents and crimes throughout the federal state

since spring 2023. The data, statistics and information collected will be an important basis for future action. Information on this can be provided in the next reporting period. (**Bavaria**)

3. Institutional framework for combating discrimination

The Advisory Committee urges the authorities to ensure that the institutional framework on antidiscrimination is independent, visible, easily accessible throughout the country, and can provide persons belonging to national minorities who are discriminated against with effective legal remedy. The mandate of the Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency should be broadened to represent victims in court and initiate legal proceedings. (Nos. 67 – 75 and 77)

a. Policy and/or legislation implementing the recommendation

- Please refer to the comments in section *D.II.2.* (**ADS Bund**)
- Please refer to the funding of the Bavaria Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V. – Landesverband Bayern), as set out in sections *C.I.1.* and *C.I.7.* In Article 1 (2) of the amending treaty signed on 8 March 2023, it was agreed that: “The Free State of Bavaria and the Bavaria Association of German Sinti and Roma continue to work together to efficiently and effectively counter discrimination against members of the minority in all areas of public life and society and to promote peaceful coexistence while respecting the ethnic, cultural and linguistic identity of the national minority.” (**Bavaria**)
- In 2021, the Senate of the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen decided to set up a State Anti-Discrimination Agency (Landesantidiskriminierungsstelle; LADS). It is currently being developed. The Anti-Discrimination Agency is established as an independent institution within the Bremen parliament and has the task of providing low-threshold and comprehensive access to anti-discrimination counselling in Bremen and Bremerhaven. This includes counselling on the use of legal remedies. (**Bremen**)
- Please refer to the comments in section *C.IV.* regarding the development of an overall strategy to combat antigypsyism and to promote equal participation of Sinti and Roma in Hamburg. (**Hamburg**)

- In Schleswig-Holstein, the areas of anti-racism and queer politics in the Ministry for Social Affairs, Youth, Family, Senior Citizens, Integration and Equality have been reinforced so that, in addition to the work already carried out on discriminatory and racist social structures, greater attention can be given to cooperation with associations and organisations of marginalised groups and to the issue of empowerment. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)
- b. Practical measures and other relevant developments in implementing the recommendation**
- In 2018, Baden-Württemberg set up the Baden-Württemberg Anti-Discrimination Agency (Antidiskriminierungsstelle des Landes Baden-Württemberg; LADS). It is located within its Ministry for Social Affairs, Health and Integration (Ministerium für Soziales, Gesundheit und Integration; MSGI) in the Division for Intercultural Affairs, Anti-Discrimination – Directorate-General for Integration, Europe. The Anti-Discrimination Agency takes a horizontal approach and is therefore also responsible for antigypsyism, racism against Roma and *gadjo* racism. The Anti-Discrimination Agency is a first point of contact for all people in Baden-Württemberg who are discriminated against and refers those affected to appropriate counselling and contact points in the federal state (including anti-discrimination counselling centres funded by the federal state). Other tasks of the Anti-Discrimination Agency include networking, outreach and awareness-raising on anti-discrimination. (*Baden-Württemberg*)
 - The Bavaria Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V. – Landesverband Bayern) has set up an anti-discrimination counselling office for 2023 in connection with the newly created State Reporting Office on antigypsyism (Landesmeldestelle Antiziganismus). This will be supported by federal funds (project financing) as part of the call for funding titled “Model development of the network of civil-society counselling offices against discrimination” (*Modellhafter Ausbau des Netzwerks zivilgesellschaftlicher Beratungsstellen gegen Diskriminierung*) by the Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency (Antidiskriminierungsstelle Bund; ADS Bund). (*Bavaria*)
 - On the basis of the Berlin State Anti-Discrimination Act (*Landesantidiskriminierungsgesetz*, LADG), which entered into force on 21 June 2020, the Ombuds Office

responsible for this Act (LADG-Ombudsstelle) took up its work in autumn 2020. The Ombuds Office provides information and advice to persons who turn to it in order to enforce their rights under this Act. The Office's services are free of charge, independent and confidential. In the course of its work, the Office may seek an amicable settlement of the dispute. It has the right to consult experts at any time, to obtain opinions, to pass on complaints and to make recommendations. Public bodies are obliged to assist the Ombuds Office in the performance of its tasks, in particular to provide the necessary information and to provide requested opinions. The Ombuds Office is to be granted access to files on request, unless there are important overriding public interests in a particular case. (*Berlin*)

- With its decree dated 12 February 2008, the Hesse Ministry of Justice put in place the requirement on the part of all of the authorities in its remit to train their staff in line with section 12 in conjunction with section 24 of the General Equal Treatment Act. To this end, they may also use the e-learning tool on the General Equal Treatment Act which is available on the Hesse advanced training platform and can be accessed via the staff portal. The decree also states that on completion of the test, staff of the authorities can print out a certificate confirming successful participation in the course and should then submit this certificate to the authority where they are employed as proof of successful attendance. (*Hesse*)
- There is no separate training for judges on this topic. (*Hesse*)
- The Academy of Justice (Justizakademie) also offers training events for employees that deal with potential discrimination against the different groups in line with section 1 of the General Equal Treatment Act (e.g. gender mainstreaming). (*Hesse*)
- Two pilot projects for anti-discrimination counselling in Lüneburg and Braunschweig have been/are being funded through the Lower Saxony Centre for Democracy, which is located within the Lower Saxony Ministry of Justice. (*Lower Saxony*)
- In addition, a state-level working group on anti-discrimination is being set up in order to monitor and network relevant funding projects. (*Lower Saxony*)

- As part of the overall expansion of counselling centres for victims of discrimination at 42 locations throughout the state, three centres were created in Gelsenkirchen, Gütersloh and Herne with a specific focus on Sinti and Roma. The counselling centre under the responsibility of the organisation PlanB Ruhr e. V. in Herne offers counselling in the Romani language, among other things. (**North Rhine-Westphalia**)
- The state government of North Rhine-Westphalia is currently promoting the creation of a Reporting Office on antigypsyism. The Reporting Office is intended to make discrimination against Sinti and Roma in North Rhine-Westphalia more visible. Analyses produced by this office can provide a basis for further reports, research and policies. The opening of the office is planned for 2024. (**North Rhine-Westphalia**)
- The Rhineland-Palatinate police force launched the *contrahassRLP* initiative in 2022. The overall aim of this initiative is to present the police and the judiciary as competent points of contact for cases of online hate speech. In addition, governmental and non-governmental initiatives in the field of online hate crime are to be further integrated. *contrahassRLP* provides a wide range of information and is aimed at all citizens in the federal state and the police force. The initiative's website¹⁷ shows how to report cases of online hate crime. It also includes extensive information on the manifestations of this phenomenon. (**Rhineland-Palatinate**)
- When the initiative was launched in 2022, police websites where individuals can report crimes also received a new function which users can use report online hate crime ("*Onlinewache*"). Since then, victims, who are often under severe distress, have been able to report such offences at a low threshold. (**Rhineland-Palatinate**)
- In a workshop during the reporting period, Rhineland-Palatinate's Anti-Discrimination Network (Netzwerk diskriminierungsfrees Rheinland-Pfalz e. V.) drew up

¹⁷ www.contrahass.rlp.de (as at 10 October 2023)

a comprehensive approach to developing civil-society anti-discrimination counselling in Rhineland-Palatinate with the support of the Rhineland-Palatinate State Anti-Discrimination Agency (Landesantidiskriminierungsstelle; LADS), which is based at the Ministry for Women, Family, Culture and Integration (Ministerium für Frauen, Familie, Kultur und Integration; MFFKI). The objective of the concept is a three-step structure, consisting of a network of first contact points, four regional anti-discrimination offices and one state anti-discrimination office. Members of the board and of the Rhineland-Palatinate Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V. – Landesverband) participated in this workshop. (**Rhineland-Pfalz**)

- In particular, Saarland’s Centre for Democracy (Landesdemokratiezentrum; LDZ), which is funded by the federal programme “Live Democracy!” (*Demokratie leben!*), has further expanded and interlinked the structure already anchored in the landscape for combating discrimination and racism. In addition to the federal programme, the state also makes its own resources available annually to prevent extremism and promote democracy as part of the state programme to combat right-wing extremism. The Saarland Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V. – Landesverband Saarland) is part of the state programme. (**Saarland**)
 - Establishment of an independent civil-society anti-discrimination counselling centre in Thuringia (2021) to provide advice and support to people affected by discrimination with an overarching approach. (**Thuringia**)
- c. Data, statistics or information to assess the impact of the measures taken**
- The Baden-Württemberg Anti-Discrimination Agency (Antidiskriminierungsstelle des Landes Baden-Württemberg; LADS) anonymously records all incoming requests from victims of discrimination. (**Baden-Württemberg**)
 - Please refer to the comments in section *D.II.2.c.* (**Bavaria**)
 - As regards the police measures taken in Rhineland-Palatinate, no information is yet available, as the measures taken have only recently been implemented. (**Rhineland-Palatinate**)

- Statistics are collected on requests for counselling at the independent anti-discrimination counselling centre in Thuringia. (*Thuringia*)
- The Thuringia Anti-Discrimination Agency also records enquiries and reports on incidents of discrimination for statistical purposes. (*Thuringia*)

The Advisory Committee strongly encourages the authorities to raise awareness among Sinti and Roma of the remedies and support structures available in cases of discrimination by public and private bodies. (Nos. 76 and 78)

a. Policy and/or legislation implementing the recommendation

- Please refer to the comments in section *D.IV.3*. The tasks of the state anti-discrimination agency also include public relations work to inform about existing counselling services. (*Bremen*)
- Please refer to the comments in section *C.I.1*. (*Saarland*)
- The Schleswig-Holstein Centre for Democracy is located in the State Prevention Council at Schleswig-Holstein's Ministry of the Interior, Municipal Affairs, Housing and Sports (Ministerium für Inneres, Kommunales, Wohnen und Sport; MIKWS). It combines the forces available in the fields of preventing extremism and promoting democracy, and connects the relevant stakeholders. The special focus is on preventing and fighting right-wing and politically motivated extremism and other phenomena directed against the rule of law such as racism, anti-Islam sentiment and homophobia. The state's Centre for Democracy receives funding from the federal programme "Live Democracy!" (*Demokratie leben!*). It also receives funds from the state programme to promote democracy and fight right-wing extremism and the state programme to prevent and fight religiously motivated extremism.
Under these programmes, several measures are supported in Schleswig-Holstein. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)
- Regional advisory teams against right-wing extremism (regionale Beratungsteams gegen Rechtsextremismus; RBTs) are funded in Kiel, Lübeck, Itzehoe and Flensburg by the state programme to promote democracy and to

fight right-wing extremism, as well as by the federal programme “Live Democracy!”. The teams advise persons who need information about right-wing extremism, racism and antigypsyism or support in dealing with racism, antigypsyism and homophobia, etc. Furthermore, they provide advanced training measures and workshops for children/young people and adults. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)

- These two programmes also provide funding to Zebra e. V. (a counselling centre for individuals affected by right-wing extremist and racist violence, as well as other crimes and violence based on group-focused enmity). Zebra e. V. provides counselling to affected individuals, their relatives and witnesses on racist, antisemitic and other right-wing extremist attacks. Attacks include targeted damage to property, (online) threats, coercion and physical assault. At the beginning of 2017, Zebra e. V. started to record right-wing extremist and racist attacks in Schleswig-Holstein in a systematic and independent manner. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)
- The KAST e. V. centre provides advice for persons wishing to leave or distance themselves from the right-wing extremist scene. It targets those who wish to lead lives where violence and contemptuous ideologies do not play a role. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)
- In addition to targeted work to fight all forms of extremism, the Schleswig-Holstein centre for democracy also actively supports services to promote democracy and shape diversity. For example, funding is provided to the specialist unit for democracy education of the Schleswig-Holstein campaign to protect children and teenagers (Aktion Kinder- und Jugendschutz Schleswig-Holstein e. V.; AKJS) as part of the state programme to promote democracy and fight right-wing extremism. The specialist unit offers opportunities and advice for schools, youth welfare, nurseries, associations and municipalities on measures to education on democracy. Democracy education involves learning basic democratic values and sharing responsibility for co-existing. This is achieved through learning and experience spaces, also in the daily lives of children and young people, by promoting skills, participation and creative opportunities. Young people are made aware of different lifestyles and interests. The fundamental rights form the basis for this.

Democracy education is therefore a preventive approach to hostile and anti-democratic attitudes. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)

- In addition, the Schleswig-Holstein Centre for Democracy, together with the Ministry for General Education and Vocational Training, Science, Research and Culture (Ministerium für Allgemeine und Berufliche Bildung, Wissenschaft, Forschung und Kultur; MBWFK), supports the state-wide coordination of the “Schools without Racism – Schools with Courage” network (Schule ohne Rassismus – Schule mit Courage; SoR-SMC) in Schleswig-Holstein, which is also part of the AKJS campaign to protect children and teenagers. “Schools without Racism – Schools with Courage” is a project for the school community which actively promotes schools where everyone is welcome, regardless of origin, religion, gender, appearance or sexual orientation. Respect and fairness determine behaviour. The school community thus seeks to stop any form of discrimination, violence and marginalisation, and all totalitarian and anti-democratic ideologies. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)
- Democratic values are also taught in a number of locations in Schleswig-Holstein as part of the *WeltWEGe* cooperation project of KAST e. V. and the international learning centre Jugendhof Scheersberg at Deutscher Grenzverein e V., an organisation in the German-Danish border area. *WeltWEGe* aims to raise awareness among young people in Schleswig-Holstein of issues such as media, culture, politics, society, radicalism and extremism and to strengthen their democratic competence. *WeltWEGe* helps all interested young people to develop and realise their own project ideas regardless of their culture and origin. Various media are used for this purpose. In addition to the content which is created, the development of media literacy also plays a crucial role in the project. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)
- Twelve local “partnerships for democracy” in Schleswig-Holstein receive financial support from the “Live Democracy!” programme. These partnerships for democracy bring together local politicians or representatives from local authorities and representatives of associations and federations, churches and other civil-so-

ciety stakeholders. They develop strategies in line with the situation and challenges on the ground. These partnerships for democracy help activate and connect local stakeholders, increasing the capabilities to respond to and mobilise against right-wing extremist, racist and other anti-democratic incidents. (***Schleswig-Holstein***)

- Schleswig-Holstein's Centre for Democracy also benefits from the federal programme of the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community to encourage social cohesion through participation (*Zusammenhalt durch Teilhabe*), which supports projects to promote democratic participation and prevent extremism. The main beneficiaries are regional associations, clubs and multipliers, whose skills are supported and improved. The programme to promote cohesion through participation seeks to strengthen and train respected contact persons who pay attention to the developments on the ground. The projects help prevent extremist threats and create basic conditions for peaceful and non-violent coexistence based on the principle of equality. (***Schleswig-Holstein***)
- Every year in March, international campaign weeks against racism are held, seeking to strengthen solidarity with victims of racism and those fighting racism. Every year for these campaign weeks, the Schleswig-Holstein Centre for Democracy, in cooperation with its network, develops an extensive programme which sends a state-wide message for combatting racism and promoting more diversity and tolerance in the federal state. (***Schleswig-Holstein***)
- The Schleswig-Holstein Prevention Council also supports and promotes small-scale projects by regional volunteers, initiatives and municipal prevention bodies, which aim to combat racist tendencies and developments and counter these developments through activities in the public interest. (***Schleswig-Holstein***)
- The state government of Schleswig-Holstein also adopted a State Action Plan to Combat Racism (*Landesaktionsplan gegen Rassismus*) by a cabinet decision of 22 June 2021 with the aim of strengthening existing anti-racism work in the federal state, identifying gaps in protection and initiating important activities against racial discrimination. The state government's overall objective for the State Action Plan was and still is to combat racism in all its forms to the greatest

extent possible, including anti-Black racism, antisemitism, antigypsyism and anti-Muslim racism. The State Action Plan is a very important component of prevention and anti-racism work in Schleswig-Holstein and will establish guidelines, define areas of action and describe specific activities in future. This will affect the selection of staff in the public administration or the curriculum for schools among other things. The Action Plan is the result of a drafting process which was initiated in 2019 on the basis of the coalition agreement for the 19th parliamentary term of Schleswig-Holstein's state parliament (2017-2022). The interministerial process took place in cooperation with all state officials and the state anti-discrimination agency and with the involvement of civil-society stakeholders. Coordination was led by Schleswig-Holstein's Ministry of the Interior and its State Prevention Council, as well as the Schleswig-Holstein Centre for Democracy.

The State Action Plan to Combat Racism contains a total of 158 anti-racism measures, 127 of which were already in place at state and municipal level before the Action Plan was adopted in 2021. In addition to further developing science and research on racism, three key areas of action have been identified, which at the same time structure the content of the Action Plan: Protection against racial discrimination at individual and institutional level; democracy education and anti-racism education in (early) education and civic education; and social engagement to combat racism and promote democracy. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)

- The 31 newly adopted anti-racism measures in the State Action Plan concern all areas of Schleswig-Holstein's state administration and will be implemented by the ministries and the State Chancellery, as well as the executive agencies and the state commissioners on their own responsibility within the next five years. Indirectly, the aim is to reach all sectors of society in Schleswig-Holstein. In doing so, the measures in the current State Action Plan are linked to existing activities in the federal state and show that Schleswig-Holstein has a wide variety of determined and responsible stakeholders involved in the fight against racism who are active locally. The activities and measures compiled here represent an important milestone in an ongoing process of anti-racism work by Schleswig-Holstein's state government. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)

- In addition, the Schleswig-Holstein Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V – Landesverband Schleswig-Holstein) already provides central information about its office, which is funded by the federal state. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)

b. Practical measures and other relevant developments in implementing the recommendation

- Besides its statutory tasks of research and public relations work, the Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency (Antidiskriminierungsstelle des Bundes; ADS Bund) specifically addresses those people who experience discrimination. In particular, the Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency is able to provide information on claims under the General Equal Treatment Act (*Allgemeines Gleichbehandlungsgesetz, AGG*), to identify possibilities for legal action under statutory provisions to protect against discrimination, to act as an intermediary for counselling services offered by other bodies and to seek an amicable settlement between the parties. (*ADS Bund*)
- Please refer to the *comments in section D.II.3.b. (Baden-Württemberg)*
- The Ombuds Office at the Berlin State Office for Equal Treatment and Against Discrimination (Landesstelle für Gleichbehandlung – gegen Diskriminierung; LADS) assists and advises free of charge on the enforcement of rights under the Berlin State Anti-Discrimination Act (*Berliner Landesantidiskriminierungsgesetz, LADG*). This service is publicly advertised. Stakeholders working for the interests of German Sinti and Roma in Berlin are also informed of these offers. (*Berlin*)
- The Berlin State Office for Equal Treatment and Against Discrimination also carries out regular public relations work on legal protection against discrimination through information materials, events, training for multipliers and campaigns, as well as on the services offered by the publicly funded infrastructure of anti-discrimination counselling.

This counselling infrastructure provides, among other things, specific services for those affected by antigypsyism. Since 2014, the Documentation Centre for Antigypsyism (Dokumentationsstelle Antiziganismus; DOSTA) of AMARO Foro e. V. has been funded by the state programme “Democracy. Diversity. Respect. Against

Right-Wing Extremism, Racism and Antisemitism” (*Demokratie. Vielfalt. Respekt. Gegen Rechtsextremismus, Rassismus und Antisemitismus*). An essential part of DOSTA’s work is providing initial consultations for affected individuals and, if necessary, referrals to legal counselling centres, such as the Anti-Discrimination Network Berlin (Antidiskriminierungsnetzwerk Berlin; ADNB) of TBB e. V., which is also funded under the aforementioned state programme.

These approaches give Sinti and Roma access to legal support structures. (**Berlin**)

- Since 2014, the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg has supported “amira”, a counselling service which helps in case of discrimination on the basis of (assumed) ethnic origin or religion¹⁸. “amira” offers competent and independent anti-discrimination counselling to people discriminated against in Hamburg on the basis of their (assumed) ethnic origin, religion, skin colour or language. This includes counselling on discrimination related to antigypsyism. Those affected are assisted in safeguarding their rights and taking appropriate steps. In addition to providing counselling and documenting cases, “amira” also helps to resolve conflicts through mediation or discussions. “amira” also assists those affected with lodging complaints or taking further legal action. In addition to counselling and support, “amira” also organises information events and training for professionals, multipliers and self-governed organisations. “amira” has an impact on civil society, expert circles and the public sphere and contributes to networking across Germany. (**Hamburg**)
- The Rhineland-Palatinate Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V. – Landesverband Rheinland-Pfalz) is a member of Rhineland-Palatinate’s Anti-Discrimination Network (Netzwerk diskriminierungsfreies Rheinland-Pfalz e. V.), which is funded by the Rhineland-Palatinate Ministry for Women, Family, Culture and Integration (Ministerium für Frauen, Familie, Kultur und Integration; MFFKI). (**Rhineland-Palatinate**)

¹⁸ <http://adb-hamburg.de/amira/> (as at 11 October 2023)

- The Saarland Centre for Democracy, which has been funded by the federal programme “Live Democracy!” (*Demokratie leben!*) of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend; BMFSFJ) since the 2nd funding period (duration: 2020-2024), in cooperation with its project partners, promotes respectful coexistence between people from different backgrounds, origin, culture and religion, as well as respect for human rights in a democratic society and develops effective strategies to combat right-wing extremism, right-wing populism, racism, anti-semitism, antigypsyism and anti-Islam sentiment. (**Saarland**)
- As also explained in section C.I.1., the Saarland Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V. – Landesverband Saarland), as a civil-society organisation, is involved in the Prevention and De-Radicalisation Network in Saarland (Präventions- und Deradikalisierungsnetzwerk im Saarland; PuDiS), which, among other things, drafts objectives for mediators and for action with the intention of implementing these. (**Saarland**)
- Furthermore, since mid-2017, the Saarland Association of German Sinti and Roma has been an official cooperation partner of the Network for Democracy and Courage (Netzwerk für Demokratie und Courage e. V.; NDC Saar) and has provided training on antigypsyism for employees of the Network. (**Saarland**)
- Since 2022, NDC Saar, which is co-financed by Saarland’s Ministry for Labour, Social Affairs and Health (Ministerium für Arbeit, Soziales, Frauen und Gesundheit; MASFG), has implemented a specific measure to combat antigypsyism with its pilot project “Remember – Remembrance must be lived” (*Remember – Erinnerung muss gelebt werden*) in the field of shaping diversity as part of the federal programme “Live Democracy!”. This project provides a platform for young adults to enter into dialogue with young people and their peers on this subject, in line with the empowerment approach. They are trained to organise project days on antigypsyism and commemorative seminars on the former Natzweiler-Struthof concentration camp. (**Saarland**)
- Since 2017, the Saarland Association of German Sinti and Roma has been an active member of *Demokratie? Ei JO!*, a collaborative project of the Saarland state

agency for civic education (Landeszentrale für politische Bildung) and the Saarland state youth council (Landesjugendring). The Saarland Association of German Sinti and Roma is also a founding member of the “Diversity” (*Vielfalt*) youth network of the Saarland state youth council. (**Saarland**)

- The Thuringia Anti-Discrimination Agency (Landesantidiskriminierungsstelle) was and still is in close contact with the RomnoKher Association (Landesverband RomnoKher Thüringen e. V.) regarding support structures and other relevant services. (**Thuringia**)

c. Data, statistics or information to assess the impact of the measures taken

- Please refer to the comments in section *D.II.2.c.* (**Bavaria**)

4. Collection of equality data

The Advisory Committee calls on the authorities to enter into a dialogue with representatives of national minorities on the collection of disaggregated data on the status and exercise of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. Any such data collection needs to be developed and conducted together with the groups concerned and meet the highest human rights and data protection standards, notably the principles of consent, anonymity and information on the purpose of processing. (Nos. 79 – 84)

The **Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community** (Bundesministerium des Innern und für Heimat; BMI) has entered into a dialogue with representatives on the collection of data. This recommendation of the Advisory Committee was discussed in depth during the 2022 implementation conference with representatives of the Federal Government, the federal states and minorities, with the Secretariat of the Framework Convention also in attendance. The views expressed by minority representatives are opposed to data collection. For example, the representatives of the Danish minority ruled out any form of data collection related to membership of a national minority, referring to the Bonn-Copenhagen Declarations of 1955, which clearly regulate the right of individuals to identify themselves as members of a national minority. During the discussion, representatives of the Frisian ethnic group questioned the fundamental need to collect disaggregated data on the status and exercise of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. The representatives of German Sinti and

Roma stressed the Nazi past experienced by the national minority of German Sinti and Roma, ruling out any data collection. The representatives of the Sorbian people agreed in principle with these comments on data collection, but pointed out that studies do already exist, stating, however, that these studies do not cover membership of a national minority, but rather collect data related to measures.

The **Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth** (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend; BMFSFJ) adds that the principle of non-collection of ethnic data in Germany poses certain challenges in terms of targeting the Sinti and Roma population. The Federal Government will address these challenges through a participatory process.

In order to improve the data on the living situation and the discrimination experienced by Sinti and Roma in Germany, the **Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency** (Antidiskriminierungsstelle des Bundes; ADS Bund) has introduced the following projects in the national strategy titled “Tackling Antigypsyism, Ensuring Participation” (*Antiziganismus bekämpfen, Teilhabe sichern*):

1. Dialogue process with civil society: The Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency plans to set up a participatory process with civil-society organisations over the period of a legislative term (with an option for extension) to explore the possibilities and conditions for collecting quantitative data (e.g. community-based surveys). In doing so, the legal restrictions and reservations of Sinti and Roma are to be fully respected.

2. Research on antigypsyism: In February 2023, the Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency published a call for applications to investigate antigypsyism, with a particular focus on discrimination against Sinti and Roma. The aim is to address existing gaps in research on discrimination against Sinti and Roma and to improve knowledge and data on the topic. Research projects are to contribute to the visibility of discrimination experienced by Sinti and Roma and to help identify the risks of discrimination. Research projects should pursue a community-based and participatory research approach involving self-governed organisations of Sinti and Roma.

The **Free Hanseatic City of Bremen** refers to the framework agreement between the Bremen Senate and the Bremen Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V. – Landesverband Schleswig-Holstein) in which the Senate committed itself, with reference to the protection of minorities, to avoid discriminatory terms for minorities in internal and external language. Membership of a minority shall only be disclosed internally or externally if it is strictly necessary for understanding the situation.

Data collection on the status of national minorities or on the exercise of their rights is not carried out within the statistical surveys of the judiciary of the **federal state of Hesse**. On the other hand, there are also considerable concerns, which have already been set out, in essence, in Germany's Seventh Report on implementing the Language Charter.

The **federal state of Rhineland-Palatinate** reports that, following the 2022 implementation conference, an exchange took place with the Rhineland-Palatinate Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V. – Landesverband Rheinland-Pfalz e. V.) to discuss the collection of equality data. The Rhineland-Palatinate Association of German Sinti and Roma therefore currently shares the opposition expressed during the implementation conference by the participants of the various minority organisations, as anonymity and voluntariness are given the highest priority, whereas data collection always includes the listing and/or naming of minorities. There is a high level of scepticism towards this. Both sides will continue to discuss this issue.

The federal state of **Schleswig-Holstein** reports that, in its communication with national minorities and ethnic groups, the collection of ethnic data is still being refused. This attitude is respected by Schleswig-Holstein's state government. Nevertheless, the state government encourages national minorities and communities to make use of existing research institutions to learn about the possibilities of stakeholder-driven surveys and to use them if they are interested. Institutions such as the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) have expertise in this field and already provide advice to minorities in other European countries. Reliable data on minorities, their structures and needs, as well as on the effects and impacts of state funding measures, would be instrumental in shaping evidence-based minority policies.

In the **Free State of Thuringia**, the RomnoKher Association (Landesverband RomnoKher Thüringen e. V.) also views data collection critically.

5. Effective equality – specific measures for Sinti and Roma

The Advisory Committee urges the authorities to address structural inequalities experienced by Sinti and Roma through a coordinated approach and targeted, evidence-based policies that are developed in close consultation with representatives of the minority. (Nos. 85 – 92)

The **Free Hanseatic City of Bremen** is fighting structural inequalities against Sinti and Roma and is developing specific measures in the areas of protection against discrimination (see comments in section *D.IV.3.*), education (see comments in section *D.XII.2.*) and the media (see comments in section *D.VI.2.*).

The **federal state of Saarland** notes that the Conference of German Integration Ministers (*Integrationsministerkonferenz, IntMK*) considers the existing data on racism and discrimination to be insufficient, as shown at the 17th conference by the majority decision on improving data on discrimination and racism (agenda item 2.6). Therefore, at the 17th conference, the *Länderoffene Arbeitsgruppe (LAG)* on indicator development and monitoring, a working group open to all representatives of the federal states, received a request to examine the extent to which monitoring in the federal state and the Integration Barometer by the Expert Council of German Foundations on Integration and Migration (*Integrationsbarometer des Sachverständigenrats deutscher Stiftung für Integration und Migration; SVR*) can better address issues relating to experiences of discrimination, the risks of discrimination and the impact on racism. To this end, the sub-working group on collecting data on discrimination and racism was set up, under which monitoring and documentation structures available from the Saarland Centre for Democracy are also to be presented in the Saarland Centre for Democracy in order to create synergies between the topics of integration and democracy promotion, diversity design and extremism prevention.

The promotion of the interest group of Sinti and Roma in the **Free State of Saxony**, as set out in section *C.I.7.*, is intended to strengthen the advocacy of Sinti and Roma. At the same time, the aim is to articulate structural inequalities between Sinti and Roma themselves in order to develop government measures to reduce structural inequalities. The Reporting and

Information Office on Antigypsyism (Melde- und Informationsstelle Antiziganismus; MIA) at the Romano Sumnal Association (Romano Sumnal e. V.) in Leipzig was also opened in October 2022.

Together with the newly appointed Antigypsyism Commissioner for the **Free State of Thuringia**, the RomnoKher Association (RomnoKher Thüringen e. V.) and other relevant stakeholders in the federal state, measures to reduce structural inequalities are to be developed and implemented.

a. Policy and/or legislation implementing the recommendation

- The Federal Government is implementing the 2020-2030 EU Roma Strategic Framework with the national strategy “Tackling Antigypsyism, Ensuring Participation” (*Antiziganismus bekämpfen, Teilhabe sichern*), which was adopted on 23 February 2022. Germany has set up a coordination office in the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend; BMFSFJ) to coordinate the implementation. Germany’s National Roma Contact Point (NRCP) hosted the first meeting of the inter-ministerial working group on measures against antigypsyism and for Sinti and Roma in March 2023. The working group, which meets regularly, allows for dialogue between competent federal agencies. Furthermore, in December 2022, a first meeting between the Federal Government and the federal states on reports of incidents of antigypsyism took place, during which the Federal Government exchanged views with the federal states. (***Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth***)
- The Free State of Bavaria refers to the comments in section *C.I.2.a.* regarding the re-establishment of a permanent working group with representatives of ministries, members of the minority and, where appropriate, the institutions on a case-by-case basis. (***Bavaria***)
- In Berlin, the statutory Advisory Council for Matters Relating to Roma and Sinti (Beirat für Angelegenheiten der Roma und Sinti) is expected to be established in 2023 in accordance with section 18 of the Berlin Act on Participation (*Partizipationsgesetz*, PartMigG). The establishment follows an extensive participatory process with representatives of civil society. The Advisory Council’s mission is to

advise and support the Berlin Senate on all matters relating to the equal participation of Roma and Sinti. The Advisory Council is located in the Senate Department for Labour, Social Services, Gender Equality, Integration, Diversity and Anti-Discrimination (Senatsverwaltung für Arbeit, Soziales, Gleichstellung, Integration, Vielfalt und Antidiskriminierung; SenASGIVA) in the Berlin State Office for Equal Treatment and Against Discrimination (Landesstelle für Gleichbehandlung – gegen Diskriminierung; LADS). (**Berlin**)

- Following a request by the Hamburg Parliament of 29 August 2021 (Parliament Document 22/5772; see comments in section C.IV.), the Hamburg Senate, under the guidance of the State Authority for Labour, Health, Social Affairs, Family and Integration (Sozialbehörde), is currently drafting an overall strategy to fight antigypsyism and to promote equal participation of Sinti and Roma in Hamburg (*Gesamtstrategie zur Bekämpfung des Antiziganismus und zur Förderung der gleichberechtigten Teilhabe der Sinti:zze und Rom:nja in Hamburg*). The Senate aims to effectively improve the protection of minorities – including the protection of Sinti and Roma – in the various areas of society and to combat racism against Sinti and Roma. In drawing up the overall strategy, the Hamburg Senate attaches the greatest importance to working in partnership with civil society and to the involvement of civil society. It is therefore of particular importance to the Senate to draw up the overall strategy in partnership and on an equal footing, with the broadest possible involvement of civil society. The main pillars of the associated participatory process are a series of hearings and workshops, as well as a committee which will include representatives of Hamburg Sinti and Roma. This committee will keep a critical eye on the development of the overall strategy. The aim is to provide the best possible picture of different perspectives. The overall strategy takes into account a wide range of social fields to drive forward the fight against antigypsyism and the promotion of equal participation. These fields include language and culture, education, work, housing, health and equality, as well as addressing past injustice and remembrance. The fight against antigypsyism in public authorities and in everyday life is also one of the key tasks of the overall strategy. It is expected to be completed in summer 2024. (**Hamburg**)

- Please refer to the comments in sections *C.I.1.* and *D.II.4* (**Rhineland-Palatinate**).
- At policy level, tools to improve data to combat racism and discrimination still need to be developed (please refer to the information on the sub-working group on collecting data on discrimination and racism as part of the IntMK). (**Saarland**)
- Please refer in general to the comments in section *D.II.4*.

In addition, the state government of Schleswig-Holstein is in constant contact with the representatives of the national minority of German Sinti and Roma, both through the formal committees and counselling services, and through regular contact at working level. Some of the measures described in section *C.I.2.* are also due to these exchanges. The state government has also started a dialogue with the self-governed organisations of the German Sinti and Roma minority with a view to extending the successful project of educational counselling for children of the minority in schools (see comments in section *D.X.5*) to include nurseries as a first step. In the future, vocational education is also to be included in the support of educational counsellors. (**Schleswig-Holstein**)

b. Practical measures and other relevant developments in implementing the recommendation

- In Baden-Württemberg, the Baden-Württemberg Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V. – Landesverband Baden-Württemberg; VDSR-BW) has been implementing the project “ReFIT – Regional Promotion of Inclusion and Participation” (*ReFIT - Regionale Förderung von Inklusion und Teilhabe*) in four cities – Mannheim, Stuttgart, Ulm and Freiburg – since 2020 with the financial support of the State Ministry for Social Affairs, Health and Integration (Ministerium für Soziales, Gesundheit und Integration; MSGI) (see *comments in section C.I.7.*). The project examines the status of equality, inclusion and participation of migrant and refugee Roma in the fields of education, housing, employment and health. Project participants, both directly employed by the aforementioned cities and the Baden-Württemberg Association of German Sinti and Roma, are expected to contribute to improving the participation of Sinti and Roma in society by making municipal services more accessible to recently ar-

rived Roma immigrants and refugees. Different methods and tools from the “Re-FIT Toolbox” are used depending on the needs of each municipality. Anti-discrimination work, counselling and education on antigypsyism are consistently taken into account and communicated through seminars and workshops. (***Baden-Württemberg***)

- The measures promoted by North Rhine-Westphalia in the field of anti-discrimination are also intended to counteract structural disadvantages, in particular towards Sinti and Roma. To this end, North Rhine-Westphalia funds, among other things, 42 counselling centres for victims of discrimination (three of them specialised in advising Sinti and Roma), the creation of an antigypsyism reporting office and the social counselling centre of the North Rhine-Westphalia Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V. – Landesverband Nordrhein-Westfalen). In the funding programme for self-governed immigrant organisations, the empowerment of Sinti and Roma is also one of the main funding priorities. Please refer to the *comments in sections C.I.7. and D.II.3.b.* regarding this. (***North Rhine-Westphalia***)
- As all previous country reports of the Federal Republic of Germany show, since the end of the Second World War, no demographic and socio-economic data on national minorities in Germany have been collected. However, comprehensive reporting and the implementation of tailor-made measures require differentiated data. For this reason, the state government of Saarland focuses on close cooperation with the Saarland Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V. – Landesverband Saarland) in order to generate or develop tailor-made measures based on challenges and needs despite the lack of data. (***Saarland***)
- For several years, the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein has been funding a project sponsored by the Schleswig-Holstein Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V. – Landesverband Schleswig-Holstein), in cooperation with the German Employees Academy (Deutsche Angestelltenakademie; DAA), providing low-threshold social counselling for

Roma immigrants: “BeST+ Romani”. This is an open counselling centre that supports Roma immigrants with integration into the education system and the labour market, as well as language learning and contact with public authorities. The project also shares and further promotes examples of successful inclusion strategies and practical assistance. Since 2018, a consultation hour has been offered at a school (Hans-Christian-Andersen-Stadtteilschule) two days a week, in addition to the counselling centre. The counselling is available in Bulgarian, Turkish, Romanian and Russian (for Roma refugees from Ukraine). Translation from and into the Romani language can be organised by interpreters if needed.

(Schleswig-Holstein)

III. Article 5

1. Promotion of national minority cultures

The Advisory Committee encourages the authorities to continue promoting the conditions necessary for persons belonging to national minorities to keep and develop their cultures and in particular to maintain and further expand the multi-annual funding approach. Due attention should be paid to the needs of the Frisian minority. (Nos. 93 – 102)

The **Free State of Saxony** states that, to date, there has been no call to change the structure of the Foundation for the Sorbian People (Stiftung für das sorbische Volk) by the Council for Sorbian Affairs (Rat für sorbische Angelegenheiten), which advises Saxony's state parliament and state government in accordance with section 6 of the Saxon Sorbs Act (*Sächsisches Sorbengesetz*, SächsSorbG), by the Federation of Lusatian Sorbs (Domowina e. V.), which is a representative of interests pursuant to section 5 of the Saxon Sorbs Act, or in the context of the consultation of Sorbian experts on the Saxon state government's sixth report on the situation of the Sorbian People in the Committee for Science, Higher Education, Media, Culture and Tourism in the state parliament of Saxony on 3 April 2023.

It is well known that discussions have started within the Sorbian public on proposals for a re-structuring of the Foundation Board (Stiftungsrat); it is not possible to take a position on this, as these discussions and suggestions are not available to the federal state of Brandenburg or the Free State of Saxony.

The current structure of the Foundation for the Sorbian People ensures a high level of participation by the representatives of the Sorbian people in the Foundation Board. For example, the chair of the Foundation Board has traditionally been elected from among the Sorbian members of the Foundation Board. The chair of the Foundation Board may not be elected against a majority of the representatives of the Sorbian people. The appointment of the Director of the Foundation is also not possible against the majority of the representatives of the Sorbian people.

The Advisory Council for Project Funding of the Foundation for the Sorbian People, which makes recommendations for project funding, is composed exclusively of representatives of

the Sorbian people. There is a majority of representatives of the Sorbian people on the Advisory Council for projects in the funding programme “Structural Change of Sorbian Language and Culture in the Free State of Saxony” (*Sorbische Sprache und Kultur im Strukturwandel im Freistaat Sachsen*).

When it comes to making decisions, the position of the Sorbian representatives is prioritised by the Foundation Board. This means that, although the representatives are in the minority in terms of numbers, this has so far only led to the funding providers, who are represented on the Foundation Board with the same number of voting members as the Sorbian representatives, enforcing a position against those of the Sorbian people in exceptional cases in the decision-making practice of the Foundation Board. In the exceptional cases where the funding providers do enforce such a position, they do so in accordance with section 5 (6) of the Statute of the Foundation in order to ensure that the legal requirements of the respective budget legislatures are taken into account and are applied. Moreover, there is a high degree of consensus on the Foundation Board on decisions, as decisions are often taken unanimously or with only a small number of abstentions and opposition.

Cooperation between different levels of government and representatives of the Sorbian people on the Foundation Board promotes communication and a balance of interests between individual decision-makers and has proved its worth.

a. Policy and/or legislation implementing the recommendation

- For Baden-Württemberg, please refer to the *comments in section C.I.1.* with regard to the new state treaty with the Baden-Württemberg Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma – Landesverband Baden-Württemberg e. V.), which entered into force on 5 January 2019. (***Baden-Württemberg***)
- The aim is to consolidate and develop the measures launched in recent years by Lower Saxony’s Ministry for Science and Culture to promote the Low German and Sater Frisian languages. This includes, among other things, the promotion of regional associations, the Commissioner for Sater Frisian, the State Centre for Low German (Länderzentrum für Niederdeutsch; LzN) and teacher training at the University of Oldenburg. (***Lower Saxony***)

- Please refer to the comments in section *C.I.7. (Rhineland-Palatinate)*.
- As stated in section *C.I.1.*, Saarland's Ministry for Labour, Social Affairs, Women and Health makes available to the Saarland Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V. – Landesverband Saarland) a budget of 50,000 euros, thus contributing to safeguarding the structure of the of the Association. Communicating the history of the Nazi genocide against Sinti and Roma, with current references to discrimination and racism in the present day, is an important pillar of the work of the Association. In cooperation with local and state-wide institutions and cooperation partners, the Saarland Association of German Sinti and Roma organises meetings, seminars and workshops on the subject of the exclusion, persecution and destruction of Sinti and Roma under the Nazi regime. In addition, Saarland's Association of German Sinti and Roma is also introducing the subject of Sinti and Roma in the classroom and in teacher training at schools. (*Saarland*)
- The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein essentially focuses its minority policy strongly on the needs and interests of national minorities and ethnic groups and strives for a policy in cooperation and on an equal footing with these communities. In this respect, the communities concerned are encouraged, with the support of the federal state, to make their own efforts to cultivate and nurture their cultures. In this sense of empowerment, central cultural institutions of minorities and ethnic groups are promoted in order to enable them to operate independently. Financial support, as described in section *C.I.7.*, therefore plays a key role. At the same time, the state government of Schleswig-Holstein aims to raise awareness among the majority population of the cultures and languages of minorities and ethnic groups and to give them the opportunity to develop in public spaces. In this context, education in minority languages (see sections *D.X.1. and D.X.2.*) and educating about minorities (see section *D.VIII.1.*) play an important role. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)
- The needs of the Frisian ethnic group are taken into account by the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein, in particular through the establishment of its own Friesen-

stiftung/Friisk Stifting, which is a foundation governed by public law. This structure enables the associations and institutions of the Frisian ethnic group to carry out autonomous cultural projects that meet their interests and needs. In addition to the funds from the lottery duty, a separate 17,000 euros is allocated in the budget of the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein each year for the cultural work and preservation of culture carried out by the Schleswig-Holstein Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V. – Landesverband Schleswig-Holstein). In particular, this funding goes towards music classes, a choir and a tailor course for women of the minority on a permanent basis. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)

- The multi-year and stable funding of the South Schleswig Association (Sydslesvigske Forening e. V.; SSF), which is the central cultural promoter of the Danish minority, also helps to promote the culture of the minority in a reliable and self-determined manner. To this end, the SSF may channel part of its funding to cultural institutions. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)
- The state government of Schleswig-Holstein's working programme also provides for funding for the establishment of a European Cultural Route along locations which are significant to German-Danish-Friesian history. Such a cultural route is intended to make the cultures in the region visible to locals and tourists alike. One of the Council of Europe's rules for certification as a European Cultural Route stipulates that a project sponsor must be found from civil society. Initial talks to find a project sponsor took place in 2022 and 2023. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)

b. Practical measures and other relevant developments in implementing the recommendation

- During the reporting period, funding for the Foundation for the Sorbian People, the Minority and Low German Secretariats, the FUEN and the ECMI continued, with some increasing. In addition, since 2022, the Federal Government has made funds available in budget legislation to increase funding for the Commissioner for Sater Frisian (see comments in section C.I.7.). (*Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community*)

- The Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media and the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein, together with the Foundation for the Frisian Ethnic Group in the Federal State of Schleswig-Holstein (Friesenstiftung/Friisk Stiftung), which was established in 2020, redesigned and standardised the procedure for project funding from federal funds. As a result, the Friesenstiftung has been the applicant of the North Frisian ethnic group since 2021. In consultation with the associations of the Frisian ethnic group, a further practical streamlining of the authorisation procedure is to be sought. (**Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media**)
- The federal state of Berlin funds the Association for Preserving the Culture of German Sinti and Roma (Verein zum Erhalt der Kultur deutsche Sinti und Roma). With this funding, the Association manages and operates the Dreilinden caravan site in order to enable travelling German Sinti and Roma people to maintain and cultivate their traditional way of life and to promote their participation in general social life. It also aims to reduce prejudices and discrimination against the minority. (**Berlin**)
- The Bremen Senate has undertaken to support project-based funding applications from the Bremen Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V. – Landesverband Bremen) in the field of arts, music and culture of Sinti and Roma in Bremen, within the limits of budgetary possibilities. However, despite annual calls for project applications, in recent years, no applications to promote specific projects in this field have been received by the Senator for Culture of National Minorities. (**Bremen**)
- Through the extension of the previous state treaty, the federal state of Hesse specifically supports the recognised national minority of Sinti and Roma in the areas of economic, social, political and cultural life and wishes to continue to promote equal coexistence in the future. (**Hesse**)
- Since 1999, the state government of Hesse has been supporting the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V. – Landesverband Hesse) with funding. In the past, in addition to funding for the As-

sociation's office, projects carried out by the Association have also been supported. The projects are concerned with assistance for school education, jobs and the social life of Sinti and Roma, as well as with providing information on the history and culture of Sinti and Roma to the majority society. (*Hesse*)

- This ensures permanent support for the work of the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma, which focuses on preserving and promoting the cultural heritage of the Sinti and Roma. In addition to increasing institutional funding, the Association is to receive additional funding for a planned permanent exhibition on the history and life of Sinti and Roma. (*Hesse*)
- Promoting the cultural life of Sinti and Roma has always been a concern of the state government of Hesse. It funded various events between 2017 and 2020. Among other things, funding of 10,000 euro was given for the "Requiem for Auschwitz" (*Requiem für Auschwitz*), a major work commemorating the Sinti and Roma as a forgotten group of victims of National Socialism. Special funding of 6,000 euros was provided for an exhibition by the Anne Frank Foundation titled "Perspectives of Sinti and Roma in Hesse" (*Perspektiven von Sinti und Roma in Hessen*) which helps to raise awareness of the Sinti and Roma and their specific concerns. (*Hesse*)
- A project called "Mare Manuscha! Art and culture of the Sinti and Roma" (*Mare Manuscha! Kunst und Kulturen der Sinti und Roma*) was organised in 2018 jointly with the Faust Culture Foundation (Faust Kultur Stiftung) and funded in the amount of 15,000 euros, largely from special funding. All funded projects aim to highlight the often-marginalised views of Sinti and Roma in art and society and to break down prejudices. (*Hesse*)
- In addition, the Philharmonic Association of Sinti and Roma in Frankfurt (Philharmonischer Verein der Sinti und Roma Frankfurt am Main e. V.) has, since 2020, received official funding of 20,000 euros a year from the Hesse Ministry for Science and the Arts. (*Hesse*)
- In Lower Saxony, the Ministry for Science and Culture has supported, among other things, the following measures:

- Funding for the PlattinO app (language level B1) of the Ostfriesischen Landschaft organisation for 2023 and 2024
- Funding in 2021 and 2022, together with the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media, for the municipality of Saterland to develop an online grammar resource
- Funding for the municipality of Saterland to offer training to interested individuals in the Sater Frisian language in order to support teachers and educational staff in nurseries and schools in 2022 and 2023 The courses are provided by the Seelter Buund organisation. (**Lower Saxony**)
- Please refer to the comments in *section E.III.1. of Germany's Fifth Report. (Rhine-land-Palatinate)*
- With the support of the Saarbrücken City Archives (Stadtarchiv Saarbrücken) and the State Agency for Civic Education (Landeszentrale für politische Bildung), the Saarland Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V. – Landesverband Saarland) is currently investigating deportations of Sinti and Roma from Saarland which took place under the Nazi regime, as well as forms of resistance and civil courage. In this context, the Saarland Association of German Sinti and Roma is seeking to carry out a study on the fates of individual Holocaust victims of the Sinti and Roma national minority from Saarland. The close cooperation between the Saarland Association of German Sinti and Roma and the Saarbrücken City Archives is also illustrated by the fact that in 2019, the Saarbrücken City Archives organised an exhibition titled “45 Years of Civil Rights Work by Sinti and Roma” (*45 Jahre Bürgerrechtsarbeit der Sinti und Roma*). (**Saarland**)
- In cooperation with the city administration of the state capital Saarbrücken, the Association will set up a memorial in the Echelmeyer Park at St Michael's Catholic church (“Pfarrkirche”) in memory of the Sinti and Roma who were persecuted and murdered under the Nazi regime. The location is a place of historical significance in Saarbrücken. The purpose of the monument is to remember the victims and raise historical awareness of the fate of this minority. It is also intended to

serve as a memorial on annual remembrance days and as a place of remembrance and education for school classes. At this stage, it is still unclear when the memorial will be inaugurated. (*Saarland*)

- Other measures to promote the cultures of national minorities are as follows:
 - Saarland’s Association of German Sinti and Roma participates in remembrance events at federal state and local level and organises its own memorial trips and educational events at historical locations.
 - On the European Holocaust Memorial Day for Sinti and Roma, on 02 August, the Sinti and Roma murdered under the Nazi regime are regularly commemorated at a wreath-laying ceremony held at the former Gestapo camp of Neue Bremm, which is attended by high-level representatives of the Saarland state government, the city administration of Saarbrücken and others.
 - The victims of the Sinti and Roma genocide are also commemorated in Saarland at a remembrance ceremony on 27 January. In addition, in 2019, Saarland’s Association of German Sinti and Roma worked together with the University of Saarland to hold a “Cultural remembrance day; unwitnessed witnesses” (*Tag der Erinnerungskultur, Zeugen ohne Zeitzeugen*). (*Saarland*)
- The Schleswig-Holstein Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V. – Landesverband Schleswig-Holstein) has designed a travelling exhibition on the history of Sinti and Roma with financial support from the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein (*see comments on the lottery duty in section C.I.7.*). With further funding from the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein, the exhibits and display boards for a travelling exhibition were created on the basis of this work. The opening of the exhibition was delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic, but since 2022, it has been shown in schools and other exhibition venues, making it accessible not only to school pupils but also to the general public. A historian is regularly at the travelling exhibition to provide deeper insight to visitors. In schools, the historian accompanies the exhibition with workshops organised together with members of the minority. The costs incurred in this regard and

for the transport and setup of the exhibition are covered by recurring project funding from the federal state. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)

- Since 2018, the fortification system Danevirke (Danewerk in German) and the Viking trading centre of Hedeby (Haithabu in German) have been a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is considered to be the largest archaeological monument in Northern Europe and a symbol of German-Danish understanding. The Danevirke Museum will be modernised by its operator, the South Schleswig Association (Sydslesvigsk Forening e. V.; SSF), by mid-2025 with the addition of a new building, new outdoor facilities and a new exhibition. The permanent exhibition on the Danevirke, which will be newly developed, will be more than double the size of the one in the old museum building, measuring approximately 800 square metres. In addition, for the first time, there will be a space of around 150 square metres for special exhibitions. Special areas, space for interactive work with school classes, an outdoor area, a café and a shop are also planned. In addition, the new museum will include spaces that can also be used for the World Heritage Site of Hedeby and the Danevirke, the Danish minority and the municipalities and associations on the Danevirke. The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein and the Danish government will support the running of the new museum with 133,000 euros per year from 2023 onwards (see comments in section *C.I.7.*). (*Schleswig-Holstein*)
- In addition to the funding for the Danevirke Museum, funding for the Mikkelberg Center in Hattstedt will be provided as of 2023. This will mean additional institutional funding for a cultural institution belonging to the Danish minority. The Mikkelberg Center for nordisk kunst og cricket is a Danish and Nordic art museum, an event space, a meeting venue and a place for preserving Danish culture. The funding is intended to make the post of museum director a full-time post in the future. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)

c. Data, statistics or information to assess the impact of the measures taken

- In Lower Saxony, information on the individual funding was published was published in the press. The Commissioner for Sater Frisian and the State Centre for Low German (Länderzentrum für Niederdeutsch; LzN) submit their respective annual reports. (*Lower Saxony*)

IV. Article 6

1. Tolerance and intercultural dialogue

The Advisory Committee calls on the authorities to implement the recommendations of the Independent Commission on Antigypsyism in close co-operation with representatives of Sinti and Roma. Awareness of antigypsyism among professionals in education, public welfare provision, law enforcement and the judiciary should be raised through systematic training on human rights and non-discrimination as a core part of initial and ongoing training. Such training should be developed and conducted with the participation of Sinti and Roma representatives. (Nos. 103 – 116)

Given the close link between political and legislative decisions and their practical implementation, the **Free State of Bavaria** is summarised here:

Education for democracy, the promotion of tolerance and the fundamentalisation of values are the responsibility of all schools in Bavaria, in accordance with the Bavarian Constitution (Article 131). They are firmly anchored in Bavaria's objectives for curricula and teacher training, which span different types of schools and subjects. The "Overall Strategy for Civic Education in Bavarian Schools" (*Gesamtkonzept für die Politische Bildung an bayerischen Schulen*), in a notice of Bavaria's Ministry of Education and Culture (Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Unterricht und Kultus; KMBek) of 16 August 2017, defines civic education as a key task for all teachers, to be implemented equally in the classroom and school life. The overall objective is to enable students to use their acquired knowledge in the social and political process, to learn how to tolerate other political or religious attitudes and to contribute to peaceful coexistence. Accordingly, the website¹⁹ managed by the State Institute for Quality in Schools and Education Research (Staatsinstitut für Schulqualität und Bildungsforschung; ISB) provides schools and, in particular, teachers, with information, materials and further links regarding all types of extremism and discrimination. Treating both issues

¹⁹ www.politischebildung.schule.bayern.de (as at 12 October 2023)

together is important, because any extremist ideology is based on the principle of inequality, which in turn leads to the exclusion or discrimination of certain communities. School pupils must not only be made aware of group-focused enmity, but they must also be able to stand up to it with courage. The ISB's article on "Preventing Antigypsyism" (*Prävention gegen Antiziganismus*)²⁰ helps to uncover the mechanisms of discrimination based on antigypsyism. By imparting knowledge in an age-appropriate manner, age-old prejudices are defragmented, interest for the history of Sinti and Roma is generated and opportunities for intercultural exchange on an equal footing are offered.

In addition, Bavarian schools receive support from the 26 Regional Commissioners for Democracy and Tolerance, who can be contacted on a low-threshold basis via the nine state school counselling centres and whose number of hours was doubled at the beginning of the 2021/22 school year. These school psychologists and guidance counsellors not only act as in-school experts on politically and religiously motivated extremism, but they can also be consulted confidentially if discrimination is suspected. If an incident of antigypsyism occurs in school, an initial evaluation would be followed by immediate intervention. Depending on the case, the school involves the security authorities and the department for protecting victims. In turn, the regional commissioners are responsible for educational work on youth misconduct. If necessary, regional commissioners who are well-connected with other governmental and non-governmental stakeholders in the field of prevention work can also provide referral counselling.

Bavaria's Agency for Civic Education (Bayerische Landzentrale für politische Bildung) also provides schools and teachers with materials extremism prevention and, in particular, antigypsyism prevention. Examples include the relevant content in *ismus.elementar* and *erinnern.elementar*, two publications with teaching methods and resources on the topics of isms and remembrance.

The consistent fight against right-wing extremism and racism, including in the form of antigypsyism, is also important in the training of the Bavarian judiciary. As part of further training, the Bavarian judiciary strengthens the intercultural competence of members of the

²⁰ www.politischebildung.schule.bayern.de/praeventionsarbeit/antiziganismuspraevention/ (as at 10 October 2023)

judiciary, thus also consistently countering the potential emergence of racism from the outset. Right-wing extremism and racism are already addressed during induction courses, which, as a rule, all young public prosecutors attend. The Bavarian State Ministry of Justice has also launched a new multi-day meeting on the fight against right-wing extremism, which further raises awareness among Bavarian public prosecutors and judges. In addition, the Centre for Counter-Extremism and Counter-Terrorism (Zentralstelle zur Bekämpfung von Extremismus und Terrorismus; ZET), located at the Munich Public Prosecutor General's Office, supports the training of the Bavarian public prosecutors' offices in the fight against extremist/terrorist crimes.

Respect for fundamental rights, which the Bavarian police's mission statement is based on, is a central aspect of qualification level 2 of police training with the Bavarian police, meaning that special focus is placed on teaching these values and legal content. In addition to training in the fields of civic education, current affairs, general police law, communication and conflict management, where issues such as human and fundamental rights or specific communities (including Sinti and Roma) are explicitly addressed and dealt with, as well as intercultural competence and ethnic characteristics of population groups and the avoidance of discriminatory racial profiling, the character-building subject of professional ethics also plays an important role. Among other things, topics such as values and norms, as well as the concept of humanity and human dignity, are discussed in a workshop. In addition, communicating the issue of diversity in society (including ethnic background) also plays an important role in police training. Because intercultural aspects are becoming increasingly important in police work, a project day, otherwise known as a training event, is held on this issue in each 3rd training phase. Therefore, a few years ago, a lecturer from the State Agency for Civic Education (Landeszentrale für politische Bildung), who is also a member of the minority, was invited to hold a presentation on antigypsyism at a conference for general-education teaching staff.

For years, the subject of "Hate Crime and Interacting with Minorities" (*Hasskriminalität und Umgang mit Minderheiten*) has been an integral part of the 3rd qualification level of the degree programme for the police service in the Police Department of the University of Public Service in Bavaria (Hochschule für den öffentlichen Dienst in Bayern; HföD). This programme is currently in the process of being restructured by the Social Sciences Department

(“Fachgebiet 6 – Gesellschaftswissenschaften”), which is responsible for this subject. The HföD is in close contact with the Bavarian Police Commissioner for Hate Crime, in particular Antisemitism.

When it comes to the issue of antigypsyism, the department is in contact with the Bavarian Police Commissioner for Hate Crime, in particular Antisemitism. In addition, a speaker from the Sinti and Roma will support teaching in order to provide a platform for this important topic. In addition, antisemitism and antigypsyism are also addressed in general in lessons on right-wing extremism and conspiracy ideologies.

In addition, it is also planned, in cooperation with the Bavarian Police Commissioner for Hate Crime, in particular Antisemitism, to use teaching in the field of police history for presentations in the field of antigypsyism. The subject of the *Zigeunerdatei* (“gypsy file”) of the Bavarian Criminal Police Office is currently foreseen here. However, the involvement of those affected by antigypsyism is also possible and desirable in the future.

Both in discussions with the Bavarian Ministry of the Interior and directly with the President of the Bavarian Criminal Police Office, the involvement of the Bavarian Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V. – Landesverband Bayern) and the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma was discussed in the anti-discrimination education and training of Bavarian police officers. Talks on this are still under way. The Bavarian Association of German Sinti and Roma also organises further training sessions with trainees and prospective civil servants from local administrations, as well as employed and voluntary staff of charities to raise awareness of antigypsyism.

As for the rest, please refer to the comments in *section E.IV.1. of Germany’s Fifth Report*.

a. Policy and/or legislation implementing the recommendation

- Combating hate crime in Baden-Württemberg is an agreed objective of the state government. The establishment of the Cabinet Committee on “Resolution against hate speech and incitement” (*Kabinettausschuss “Entschlossen gegen Hass und Hetze”*), which was set up on 14 September 2021 by the state cabinet under the chair of Bavaria’s Ministry of the Interior, Digital Transformation and Municipalities (Ministerium des Inneren, für Digitalisierung und Kommunen; IM BW), is enshrined in the coalition agreement of 8 May 2021. Effectively combating hate speech and incitement, including in the digital sphere, is a fundamental task in

order to effectively protect the free democratic basic order and social cohesion. One of the tasks of the Cabinet Committee is to optimise police training in the field of hate crime. (***Baden-Württemberg***)

- Furthermore, in Baden-Württemberg, the establishment and implementation of the guidelines on education to promote tolerance and acceptance (*Bildung für Toleranz und Akzeptanz von Vielfalt*) in the curricula of general schools and the mandatory introduction of the Guide for Democracy Education (*Leitfaden Demokratiebildung*) made a significant contribution to raising awareness among teachers of all forms of discrimination, including antigypsyism. (***Baden-Württemberg***)
- Please refer to the comments in sections C.IV. and D.II.5.a. (***Hamburg***)
- By decision of the cabinet, Hesse's Information and Competence Centre Against Extremism (Hessisches Informations- und Kompetenzzentrum gegen Extremismus; HKE) was established in 2013 and placed in the State Police Headquarters at the Hesse Ministry of the Interior and Sport (Hessisches Ministerium des Innern und für Sport; HMdIS). A key task is the coordination of programmes and projects in Hesse for the prevention of all kinds of extremism: state-wide initiatives to prevent and intervene against anti-constitutional activities are recorded, coordinated and further developed centrally in the HKE. (***Hesse***)
- In the overall context of extremism prevention, many projects and measures are supported in Hesse as part of the Hesse state programme to promote democracy and fight extremism (*Hessen – aktiv für Demokratie und gegen Extremismus*), which is run by the HKE. The objectives of the state programme are to strengthen civil-society engagement to promote democracy, to raise awareness of and respect for human rights and children's rights, which have been enshrined in the Hesse Constitution since 2018, and to support measures and projects targeting all forms of extremism/politically motivated crime and anti-constitutional activities, in particular right-wing extremism, left-wing extremism, anti-Muslim sentiment, foreign extremism, extremism of "Reichsbürger" and "Selbstverwalter", as

well as explicitly targeting antisemitism, hostility towards Islam/Muslims, antigypsyism, racism and all forms of group-focused enmity. In general, the programme condemns and seeks to prevent all use of violence. (*Hesse*)

- The programme receives funding from the Hesse Advisory Network to Promote Democracy and to Fight Right-Wing Extremism (Beratungsnetzwerk Hessen – gemeinsam für Demokratie und gegen Rechtsextremismus) among others. Since 2017, the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V – Landesverband Hesse), has been a member of the Advisory Network. Due to this membership and consistent dialogue the issue of antigypsyism is very important in the work of the Advisory Network. Individual members have worked together on this issue, for example through temporary projects. In addition, the counselling cases are documented according to a standard procedure in which the cases are assigned to the different forms of discrimination. Since 2014, 25 counselling sessions on antigypsyism have been carried out, as well as seven educational services in the field of antigypsyism. (*Hesse*)
- In addition, the “Response” counselling centre offers support for those affected by discrimination, i.e. to victims of right-wing extremist, racist, antisemitic, anti-Muslim or antigypsyist violence. The working definition of the Alliance Against Anti-Gypsyism (Allianz gegen Antiziganismus) in the 2017 policy provides the basis for the respective approaches to action in the work of the Hesse Advisory Network to Promote Democracy and to Fight Right-Wing Extremism.²¹ (*Hesse*)
- In addition, in 2017, the subject of antigypsyism was added to the loan exhibition *RECHTSaußen – MITTENDrin* of the Hesse Centre for Democracy, which has been on loan to schools, authorities, municipalities or civil-society organisations regularly since 2015. (*Hesse*)

²¹ <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/download/6356> (as at 12 October 2023)

- Under the coalition agreement of the state government of Lower Saxony, the implementation of the recommendations of the Independent Commission on Antigypsyism, which was established by the Bundestag, is to be examined. The examination of these recommendations is still ongoing. (**Lower Saxony**)
- Civic education, the shaping of school culture and democracy education are an important part of the educational mission of schools in North Rhine-Westphalia. This includes the sub-topic of preventing extremism and racism. This is an important task of schools, both inside and outside of teaching, but of course cannot replace police and legal measures. In order to prevent extremism and racism, the state government relies on the early exercise of democratic competences and an in-depth reflection on anti-democratic concepts. The aim is for school pupils to learn to take responsibility for themselves and others, to represent their own opinions, but also to respect the opinions of others. Measure 5 in the Action Plan “Promoting Democracy and Respect – Resolute Action against Discrimination and Violence” (*Für Demokratie und Respekt – Entschieden gegen Diskriminierung und Gewalt*) for the years 2019-2022 provides for, among other things, the strengthening of schools through concrete guidance and support, as well as through nationally supported school development programmes. These include, for example, programmes such as the “Schools without Racism – Schools with Courage” network (Schule ohne Rassismus – Schule mit Courage; SoR-SMC). The entire school community is committed to schools without racism and, through regular project days and events, draws attention to topics such as everyday racism, exclusion, extremism or antisemitism, as well as antigypsyism and anti-democratic behaviours, and calls for discussion to develop counter-measures. (**North Rhine-Westphalia**)
- The Joint Circular on “Cooperation in preventing and combating juvenile delinquency” (BASS 18-03 No.1) gives headteachers in schools the opportunity to examine whether, in the event of offences, educational or administrative measures are sufficient or whether the seriousness of the offence or other serious circum-

stances, such as multiple anomalies, require notification to the police or the public prosecutor's office. Politically motivated crimes are explicitly included in this regard. (***North Rhine-Westphalia***)

- Democracy education and the prevention of extremism are also an integral part of teacher training and are firmly anchored in school regulations by the Circular of the State Ministry for Schools and Education (Ministerium für Schule und Bildung; MSB NRW) of 23 March 2017. The competence team of North Rhine-Westphalia offers a training programme on “Intercultural School Development – Shaping Democracy” (*Interkulturelle Schulentwicklung – Demokratie gestalten*). (***North Rhine-Westphalia***)
- Similarly, the topics of extremist Salafism, antisemitism and right-wing extremism are embedded in the training of school counsellors. In addition, a total of 54 posts have been established in the field of extremism prevention with experienced social workers or school counsellors who work in the psychological counselling centres of schools. The role of the Systemic Extremism Prevention Specialists (SystEx) is to support the work of school psychologists on issues related to the prevention of radicalisation, extremism, racism and violence (e.g. bullying and sexual violence). (***North Rhine-Westphalia***)
- In addition to the comments in section *C.I.1.*, it is reported that issues relating to measures to promote awareness of antigypsyism are the subject of the contractual negotiations in the context of the further development of the framework agreement of 25 July 2005. (***Rhineland-Palatinate***)
- Since the 2021/22 school year, a compulsory two-day practical module on democracy education has been included in the training of trainee teachers at the following types of school: *Gemeinschaftsschule* (comprehensive school), *Gymnasium* (grammar school), *Förderschule* (school for children with learning disabilities) and *berufliche Schule* (vocational school). The module addresses the foundations of discrimination and group-focused enmity across different types of school and implements action- and argument-oriented training. The event is held in cooperation with the Network for Democracy and Courage (Netzwerk für Demo-

kratie und Courage e. V.; NDC Saar). Other stakeholders include the Saarland Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V. – Landesverband Saarland), LSVD Landesverband Saar e. V., the Change Network, Adolf-Bender-Zentrum e. V., the Network for Development Policy in Saarland (Netzwerk Entwicklungspolitik im Saarland e. V.; NES) and the Saarland state youth council (Landesjugendring). Training on antigypsyism in cooperation with the Network for Democracy and Courage is regularly offered at the State Institute for Education and the Media (Landesinstitut für Pädagogik und Medien; LPM).

(Saarland)

- The bill for an Act on Integration and Participation in Saxony was adopted by the state government of Saxony on 4 July 2023. In particular, the aim is to strengthen intercultural education in the areas in question, including antigypsyism. **(Saxony)**
- The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein refers in this regard to the more detailed comments in sections *C.I.2. and D.II.3.*, which, to a large extent, serve to prevent all forms of exclusion and extremism and achieve this through the strengthening of intercultural dialogue and tolerance. In addition, a funding policy of the Schleswig-Holstein Ministry for Social Affairs, Youth, Family, Senior Citizens, Integration and Equality (Ministerium für Soziales, Jugend, Familie, Senioren, Integration und Gleichstellung; MSJFSIG) for the promotion of regional and minority languages in childcare (see section *C.I.7.*), which promotes the teaching of regional and minority languages, also establishes contact with minorities and their cultures in a playful way. This funding has not yet been used for the Romani language. **(Schleswig-Holstein)**
- In addition, in the area of administrative training, it should be reported that the “Intercultural Competence” module is mandatory for all students of the University of Applied Sciences for Administration and Services (Fachhochschule für Verwaltung und Dienstleistung; FHVD) in the general administration programme for 2023. This module provides for two teaching units on regional and minority languages in the public administration, in addition to the protection of minorities

in Schleswig-Holstein, in order to raise awareness of the role of the administration in preventing discrimination against national minorities and ethnic groups and to promote intercultural dialogue. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)

b. Practical measures and other relevant developments in implementing the recommendation

- The issues of human rights, fundamental rights and non-discrimination are dealt with on an ongoing basis by the Federal Criminal Police Office (Bundeskriminalamt; BKA) and are regularly taught as part of the central training programmes for all career levels, as well as decentrally as part of the BKA's internal training programmes. These issues are also addressed in practical police training. For example, since 2019, awareness-raising seminars on anti-discrimination have been organised with the involvement of civil-society organisations. In this way, the social and intercultural skills of police officers are consolidated, expanded and trained on a practical basis, also in the form of role-playing and situational training. (*Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community*)
- As explained in section *C.I.2.d.*, on 27 January 2023, the Federal Criminal Police Office (Bundeskriminalamt; BKA) officially recognised the working definition of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) in a Joint Declaration with the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma. In this Declaration, both parties undertake to work together to fight antigypsyism. Extensive cooperation measures have also been adopted. In order to reduce discrimination, scientific studies are supported by the BKA and the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma; in future, all students at the criminal police faculty at the Federal University of Public Administration (Hochschule des Bundes; HS Bund) will take part in an antigypsyism course prior to the traineeship in their respective federal states and will reflect on their experiences during the traineeship in a further subsequent course. The Education Forum of Sinti and Roma supervises up to five bachelor's theses on the subject and, in addition to the events for students, Education Centre against Antigypsyism (Bildungsforum gegen Antisemitismus) offers two full-day training courses, initially aimed at managers and multipliers and then being opened up to all existing employees of the BKA. The focus is on antigypsyism as a specific form of racism and on the history and present-day lives of Sinti

and Roma. Finally, in the course of 2023, the *HinterFragen* exhibition of Sinti and Roma will be made available to employees of the BKA in all three locations. (**Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community**)

- Please note that the Federal Agency for Civic Education (Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung; BpB) endeavours to initiate civic educational processes on national minorities in Germany on an ongoing basis, using a wide range of formats, teaching resources, print and online services and by supporting civic education multipliers.
 - For example, as part of the BpB's *Begegnen* series, posters and flyers critically addressing the issue of antigypsyism, among other things, were created.
 - Two flyers have already been created on antigypsyism and antisemitism, both under the title "*Gekonnt Handeln. Kritische Auseinandersetzung mit [...]*"²². The aim of the publications is to provide practitioners with a selection of the best activities for working with adolescents and young adults.
 - In the documentary theatre series *NSU-Monologe*, the stories of three families whose relatives were murdered by the NSU ("National Socialist Underground") were told at five different venues. As part of a panel discussion, the head of the education unit at the Documentation and Culture Centre of German Sinti and Roma in Heidelberg was invited to give insight into the situation of Sinti and Roma as a national minority in Germany. The event series was aimed at citizens, school classes and students.
 - The funding for the project sponsor Amarodrom e. V. goes towards the project titled *Intersektionelle Akademie*, which is a 12-month project with approximately 30 participants. The project is aimed at both local Roma participants and recently arrived Roma participants from Ukraine, as well as people with refugee and migration experiences and from the majority soci-

²² <https://www.bpb.de/shop/buecher/einzelpublikationen/312504/handreichung-kritische-auseinandersetzung-mit-antiziganismus/> (as at 12 October 2023)

- ety. Three five-day modules are to deal with various forms of discrimination (including racism, anti-Islam sentiment, antigypsyism and antisemitism) and the resulting multiple discrimination.
- With institutional funding, the BpB supports 100 recognised education providers, which together reflect the plurality of civic education. This broad network includes trade unions and religious institutions, as well as target group-specific and conceptual educational institutions in Germany. The issue of national minorities and the special focus on antigypsyism are also reflected in the events organised by the recognised education providers. Stakeholders with a relevant profile in this area are, for example, Alte Brandwache e. V. – Jugendbildungsstätte Kaubstraße and Brücke/Most-Stiftung.
 - In recent months, the Instagram channel “saymyname” ran two themed weeks on the subject of antigypsyism and the lives and culture of Sinti and Roma. “Say My Name” is the title of an online video series produced on behalf of the BpB by Kooperative Berlin. The format is aimed at young women aged 14-25 and promotes important social values such as diversity, respect, emancipation, equality and solidarity.
 - *flutter* is the BpB’s youth magazine. It looks at backgrounds and discussions, provides arguments and shows people and their experiences. The booklet appears four times a year, with each issue dealing with a different topic. The website “flutter.de” contains numerous videos and articles on antigypsyism. (***Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community***)
- The German Judicial Academy (Deutsche Richterakademie), a training institution for judges and public prosecutors run by the Federal Government and the individual federal states, regularly offers a training event to raise awareness among employees of how to deal with different cultures. The conference on intercultural competence, which has taken place for several years and is also scheduled for 2023 and 2024, focuses in particular on dealing with litigants from other cultural backgrounds before the courts.

This training has always attracted great interest from judges and public prosecutors and is in high demand. However, representatives of Sinti and Roma are currently not involved. (**Federal Ministry of Justice**)

- With its programme titled “Our work: Our diversity. Initiative for Democracy in the Workplace” (*Unsere Arbeit: Unsere Vielfalt. Initiative für betriebliche Demokratiekompetenz*), the Federal Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs (Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Soziales; BMAS) is working towards equal, collegial cooperation in diverse workforces and aims to strengthen democracy in the world of work and counter racism, conspiracy theories and right-wing extremism. Across Germany, 34 projects provide support to employees, employers, teachers and pupils at vocational schools to help them act in a way that promotes democracy and to combat racism and other ideologies on the ground. Particular focus is on small and medium-sized enterprises. Training, seminars, campaigns and support for initiatives are offered throughout Germany. (**Federal Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs**)
- Since 2015, the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend; BMFSFJ) has funded various measures at municipal, regional and nationwide level through the federal programme “Live Democracy!” (*Demokratie leben!*). These measures deal with antigypsyism by taking preventive and educational approaches.

Since the beginning of the second funding period of the federal programme in 2020, funding has been provided to a dedicated competence network in the field of antigypsyism which pools information across Germany, provides expert advice and ensures the transfer of successful prevention approaches at federal, state and local level. The competence centre focuses on the following:

- Raising awareness among the majority society of antigypsyist prejudices and stereotypes
- Supporting the social participation of Sinti and Roma
- Empowerment

- Historical-political education in relation to the persecution and murder of Sinti and Roma during the Nazi era
- Expert dialogue
- Multiplier training
- In addition, funding is provided to nine pilot projects on this topic, which are mainly run by Sinti and Roma organisations and which further develop existing anti-discriminatory approaches to educational work for children and young people that combats antigypsyism in and outside of the school setting. Professionals and multipliers are also taken into account. (***Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth***)
- In Baden-Württemberg, the Centre for School Quality and Teacher Training (Zentrum für Schulqualität und Lehrerbildung; ZSL) offers support and further training for implementing the guidelines on education to promote tolerance and acceptance (*Bildung für Toleranz und Akzeptanz von Vielfalt*) and the guide on democracy education. Antigypsyism is also addressed in the context of anti-discrimination. (***Baden-Württemberg***)
- The Research Centre on Antigypsyism (Forschungsstelle Antiziganismus) at the Department of History (Historisches Seminar) of the University of Heidelberg, which was founded in 2017, makes a strong contribution to tolerance and intercultural dialogue in Baden-Württemberg through its research and mediation activities. At the same time, current research is made available to the general public and society, as well as for prevention work and teaching purposes. Cooperation with representatives of Sinti and Roma is one of the fundamental principles of this work. (***Baden-Württemberg***)
- Since March 2021, there has been ongoing cooperation between the Baden-Württemberg police and the Baden-Württemberg Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma, Landesverband Baden-Württemberg e. V.). This cooperation is now well-established. Since 2022, the issue of antigypsyism prevention has been explicitly included in the curriculum for the intermediate police service and in the curriculum for the higher intermediate police service as part of the prevention of hate crime and extremism. Among other

measures, personal exchanges between trainees and members of Sinti and Roma are promoted through a meeting format called “We are...” (*Wir sind...*). The format was implemented in 2022 as part of a travelling exhibition hosted at all police training sites, which was launched with a high-profile kick-off event. As part of the work to improve police training in the context of the Cabinet Committee tasks referred to in section *D.IV.1.a.*, an electronic learning application focusing on hate crime is being developed for the training of the Baden-Württemberg police force. In this context, a game titled “Correctly investigated?!” (*Richtig ermittelt?!*) was also implemented into police training. This game provides an introduction to professional police work in the context of hate crime. (***Baden-Württemberg***)

- In the area of justice, aspects of xenophobic violence in Baden-Württemberg are regularly addressed in the context of the State Protection Meeting organised by Baden-Württemberg’s Criminal Police Office, which is aimed at public prosecutors dealing with crimes against state security. The seminar titled “Basics of Radicalisation and Extremism – Detecting and Prosecuting Politically and Religiously Motivated Crimes” (*Grundlagen Radikalisierung und Extremismus – Erkennen und Verfolgen von politisch und religiös motivierten Straftaten*), which was offered at state level in May 2022, allowed for intensive and practical exchanges with experts from the Competence Centre against Extremism in Baden-Württemberg (konex), the Baden-Württemberg state police and the Stuttgart Public Prosecutor General’s Office. (***Baden-Württemberg***)
- The prosecution of xenophobic and right-wing extremist violence is the subject of various events at the level of the German Judicial Academy (Deutsche Richterkademie; DRA), in which Baden-Württemberg is also involved. One example is the conference titled “Racism – a challenge for the judiciary” (*Rassismus – Eine Herausforderung für die Justiz*), which was last held in October 2022 and is scheduled to take place again in December 2023. The conference titled “Political extremism – a challenge for society and the judiciary” (*Politischer Extremismus - Herausforderungen für Gesellschaft und Justiz*), which addresses the fight against politically motivated terrorist offences by means of criminal law, including those motivated by National Socialism, is also regularly offered. The conference on

“Right-wing extremism in Germany – Continuity and current trends” (*Rechtsextremismus in Deutschland – Kontinuitäten und aktuelle Tendenzen*) last took place in March 2023. There are also several historical conferences dedicated to the re-appraisal of Nazi injustice. In addition, a conference on intercultural competence is also offered on a regular basis, which addresses the topic of how to deal with litigants from other cultural backgrounds. In addition, in February 2023, the blended learning offering of the Federal Ministry of Justice and the German Judicial Academy on intercultural competence in judicial practice was advertised.

(Baden-Württemberg)

- Various events organised by the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN), the Academy of European Law (Europäische Rechtsakademie; ERA) and other external organisers were also advertised by the training division. Examples include the ERA seminar series “EU Anti-Discrimination Law”, the EJTN seminar “Applying EU Anti-Discrimination Law” and the hybrid conference of Bremen’s Centre for Democracy titled “Institutional Racism – Impacts and Counter-Strategies of Public Administrations” (*Institutioneller Rassismus – Wirkungsweisen und Gegenstrategien öffentlicher Verwaltungen*) on 14 March 2023. **(Baden-Württemberg)**
- As part of the programmes at the Baden-Württemberg centre for training in correctional facility occupations, various events have been organised in the reporting period to date (October 2023) on how to deal with discrimination and racism, as well as hate crime, tolerance, intercultural dialogue and respect for human rights. The protection of national minorities is addressed in the induction courses of all candidates in the intermediate police service and in prison education, skills and work roles. **(Baden-Württemberg)**
- As part of the state programme “Democracy. Diversity. Respect. Against Right-Wing Extremism, Racism and Antisemitism” (*Demokratie. Vielfalt. Respekt. Gegen Rechtsextremismus, Rassismus und Antisemitismus*) of the Berlin State Office for Equal Treatment and Against Discrimination (Landesstelle für Gleichbehandlung – gegen Diskriminierung; LADS), the federal state of Berlin funds a number of measures that promote the prevention of antigypsyism through empowerment

approaches and raising awareness among the majority society. This includes the funding projects of RomaniPhen e. V. from 2020-2022, which developed educational and teaching materials on racism for educational staff at primary and secondary schools. In addition, the project “Diversity competence as a key qualification in benefit-paying authorities and social counselling centres with a focus on equal opportunities and equal participation for Roma” (*Diversity-Kompetenz als Schlüsselqualifikation in Leistungsbehörden und Sozialberatungsstellen mit Schwerpunkt: Chancengleichheit und Teilhabegerechtigkeit für Rom*nja*) of the Amaro Foro Association (Amaro Foro e. V.) is funded through the state programme. It provides training on antigypsyism, including for benefit-paying authorities and social counselling centres. The “*Me Sem Me!*” project, which is run by the Rroma-Information-Centrum e. V., offers city tours on Nazism and *porajmos*. On this city tour, young Roma and Sinti guide participants to historic places in Berlin. (**Berlin**)

- Since 2021, the LADS Academy of the Berlin State Office for Equal Treatment and Against Discrimination has regularly offered a workshop on antigypsyism for the staff from the administrative institutions of the federal states of Berlin and Brandenburg and state-owned businesses, as well as awareness-raising workshops by non-profit organisations and associations, in cooperation with the State Agency for Civic Education (Landeszentrale für politische Bildung) and the RomaTrial Association (RomaTrial e. V.). The workshop addressed the current manifestations of antigypsyism, identified and refuted the common images of antigypsyism in relation to the respective work contexts, and developed practical counter-strategies. (**Berlin, Brandenburg**)
- The training courses offered by the joint legal examination board of Berlin and Brandenburg (Gemeinsame Juristische Prüfungsamt Berlin und Brandenburg; GJPA) and the German Judicial Academy raise awareness of antigypsyism in various training courses with broader themes. (**Berlin, Brandenburg**)
- During the course of their training or degree, police recruits in Brandenburg are fully prepared for professionally dealing with people from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds; one of the methods is mandatory training on intercultural

communication. The Brandenburg Police University (Hochschule der Polizei) deliberately refrains from offering training specifically aimed at acquiring knowledge about specific communities. It follows the principle that professional police officers regard people as individuals and that, in this context, collective attributes based on presumed group membership are prohibited. In addition, the Brandenburg Police University also offers events which help police recruits and experienced police officers understand the history and culture of particular sections of the population. One example of this is the event titled “Sinti and Roma – The History and Present-Day Lives of a Minority in Germany” (Sinti und Roma – Geschichte und Gegenwart einer Minderheit in Deutschland), which was organised on 22 March 2019, together with the Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma and the Berlin-Brandenburg Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V. – Landesverband Berlin-Brandenburg). (**Brandenburg**)

- In further training courses designed by the Brandenburg Academy of Justice, anti-gypsyism is regularly included, either directly or indirectly, in the broader seminars on “Intercultural training” and “Communication skills for dealing with human diversity in an open and respectful manner in encounters with the general public and litigants”. Both seminars are held once to twice a year, with the exception of 2023. (**Brandenburg**)
- For the corrections system, training courses cover general issues such as understanding democracy, diversity and tolerance, including human and citizen’s rights and non-discrimination. (**Brandenburg**)
- Training on human rights education and non-discrimination is an important part of the training offered to all employees of the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen. In the field of education, the Bremen’s Institute for Schools (Landesinstitut für Schule) has its own organisational unit on intercultural education. Four employees provide advice and further training on central and in-school formats at the Intercultural Competence Centre (Kompetenzzentrum Interkulturalität; KOM.IN). The work of the Intercultural Competence Centre aims to encourage

school staff to reflect on how they deal with otherness and to foster mutual empathy based on their own cultural identity. This creates the basis needed to raise intercultural awareness in schools. The Intercultural Competence Centre continues to support intercultural school development processes – specifically also within the framework of intercultural training and further training. (**Bremen**)

- In the area of justice, dealing with litigants from different cultures is part of everyday practice. Intercultural competence is therefore often a prerequisite for a fair and efficient judicial process. Under the programme of the German Judicial Academy and the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN), various training courses on racism, intercultural competence and dealing with hate speech under criminal law are available to public prosecutors and judges of the Bremen judiciary. (**Bremen**)
- Please refer to the comments in section *C.I.7.* with regard to training support workers in nurseries. (**Hamburg**)
- The Institute for Transcultural Competence (Institut für Transkulturelle Kompetenz; ITK) at the Hamburg Police Academy currently offers the following to staff of the Hamburg police force:
 - Eleven culture-specific and cultural-relative basic modules related to racist discrimination against Sinti and Roma
 - Compulsory all-day seminars on the topic of “Group-focused enmity – Antigypsyism” (*Gruppenbezogene Menschenfeindlichkeit - Antiziganismus*) at the Hamburg Police Academy.

The Institute for Transcultural Competence works closely with civil-society stakeholders within the Hamburg police. These include descendants of Holocaust survivors, the chair of the Federal Union of German Sinti and Roma (Bundesvereinigung der Sinti und Roma e. V.; BVSr), the chair of the non-profit association Sinti Union Schleswig-Holstein e. V. and the chair of the Sinti Association for Supporting Children and Young people (Sinti-Vereins zur Förderung von Kindern und Jugendlichen e. V.) in Hamburg.

The Institute for Transcultural Competence is planning the following as future measures to combat antigypsyism:

- Holocaust Remembrance Day 2024, with a focus on the participation of Roma victims and Sinti
- Large-scale informational event on “The Hamburg Police and Racism against Roma and Sinti”. (**Hamburg**)
- Please refer to the comments in section *D.IV.1.e.* regarding the measures relating to human rights education and non-discrimination in the degree courses of the police department at the Hesse University of Public Management and Security (Hochschule für öffentliches Management und Sicherheit; HöMS) and the training courses offered by the Central Training Office of Hesse (Zentrale Fortbildung Hessen; ZFH). (**Hesse**)
- Targeted training for educational staff in Hesse titled “Sinti and Roma and the role of antigypsyism in Germany” (*Sinti und Roma und die Rolle des Antiziganismus in Deutschland*) was provided together with Hesse’s Teaching Academy (Hessische Lehrkräfteakademie) in 2020, 2021 and 2022. Accredited training courses on this topic were also offered in 2023. The target group was extended from teachers to all educational staff in schools in Hesse. (**Hesse**)
- Raising awareness of discriminatory behaviour and strengthening intercultural competences are key components of training at the Lower Saxony Police Academy (Polizeiakademie Niedersachsen) in order to effectively counter discrimination and the resulting patterns of behaviour. As a result, students and all police officers are continuously made aware of any discrimination based on sex, race, skin colour, religion, political or other opinions, national or social origin, membership of a national minority and any other distinguishing features. (**Lower Saxony**)
- North Rhine-Westphalia’s Ministry for Schools and Education (Ministerium für Schule und Bildung; MSB NRW) has made available to all schools in the federal state the updated emergency folder “Take note, take action” (*Hinsehen und Handeln*), and the newly developed Crisis Prevention Manual (*Krisenpräventionshandbuch*). This provides schools with guidance on how to deal with crisis-related events. In the event of criminal offences, the police must be involved. This also applies to anti-constitutional statements. The area of extremism is part of

the emergency folder as a possible crisis. With regard to discrimination against Sinti and Roma, page 283 of the Crisis Prevention Manual explicitly refers to further literature that can help schools contribute to “unlearning” discrimination by providing in-depth knowledge about this minority. (*North Rhine-Westphalia*)

- During the reporting period, the Rhineland-Palatinate State Institute for Education (Pädagogisches Landesinstitut Rheinland-Pfalz; PL) continued to offer further training courses for teachers on the prevention of group-focused enmity. In the field of antigypsyism and the history and present-day lives of Sinti and Roma, a training event titled “Antigypsyism and the persecution of Sinti and Roma. Regional history under National Socialism based on the local history of the Rhine-Neckar region” (*Antiziganismus und die Verfolgung von Sinti und Roma. Regionalgeschichte im Nationalsozialismus anhand lokalthistorischer Geschichte der Rhein-Neckar-Region erfahrbar machen*) was held. (*Rhineland-Palatinate*)
- The Coordination Centre for Democracy Education in Schools (Koordinierungsstelle für schulische Demokratiebildung), which was established in 2019, informed schools and supported them with strategies, teaching and learning settings and cooperation partners for democratic school development, and targeted prevention of antigypsyism and other forms of group-focused enmity. Rhineland-Palatinate’s Ministry for Education (Ministerium für Bildung des Landes Rheinland-Pfalz) has also awarded and still awards financial grants for such projects, workshops and school activities. The Rhineland-Palatinate unit for coordinating remembrance, meetings with eyewitnesses and democracy education at schools (Koordinierungsstelle für schulische Gedenkarbeit und Zeitzeugenbegegnungen), which was also established in 2019, has also compiled extensive information (appropriate teaching/learning materials; ideas for adapting the European Holocaust Remembrance Day for Sinti and Roma in schools; information on survivors, books for children and young people; digital resources; contact persons, etc.) for teachers on the Rhineland-Palatinate education server. The State Institute for Education also uses state-wide events such as the State Democracy Day (*Landesdemokratietag*), which is held annually and visited by well over 1000 people, to

raise awareness of relevant activities in the field of preventing violence and extremism. (**Rhineland-Palatinate**)

- Other training institutes, such as the Fridtjof-Nansen-Akademie in Ingelheim, offered relevant seminars in the reporting period, such as the event titled “Lives and Realities of Roma and Sinti in Germany Today” (*Gegenwärtige Lebensrealitäten von Roma und Sinti in Deutschland*). (**Rhineland-Palatinate**)
- In accordance with the Basic Law and the “Diversity Charter” (*Charta der Vielfalt*), which they also signed, the Rhineland-Palatinate police intend to make diversity among the population positive, based on the protection of dignity, respectful coexistence and participation. The Rhineland-Palatinate police see themselves as the police of all people living in the federal state.

The principles of the rule of law, the principle of equality in the Basic Law and the non-discriminatory performance of tasks are a firm part of the curriculum of the bachelor’s degree “Police Service” (*Polizeidienst*). Junior police officers in Rhineland-Palatinate focus on the role of the police in the Nazi era while also identifying the social role and the obligations of police forces today. Training also involves intercultural interactions and courses on intercultural competence. It involves the disciplines of law, psychology, sociology and professional ethics, as well as non-police institutions and associations on a regular basis. Various events are co-organised with members of the communities who are particularly at risk of discrimination. Finally, exams also look at how the police can increasingly develop good relationships with all of the population and take into account different concerns. The further training courses reflect the principles and content of the basic training.

Neither the basic nor the further training is concerned solely with imparting knowledge or with providing information on professional duties; they focus much more on identifying with the role of police as a community force in the spirit of social cohesion. (**Rhineland-Palatinate**)

- Since 2021, in the interest of public confidence, the Rhineland-Palatinate police have been exploring the relationship between themselves and the population, i.e. their standing in society, through an independent social-science study on internal

security and democratic resilience, or “INSIDER study” for short (*Innere Sicherheit und demokratische Resilienz. Bedingungen und Wechselwirkungen polizeilichen Handelns in der pluralen Gesellschaft.*) (**Rhineland-Palatinate**)

- In 2019, in cooperation with the State Commissioner for Civic Education, the Schleswig-Holstein Ministry for Education funded the film “Sinti & Roma – A family reports” (*Sinti & Roma – eine Familie weiß zu berichten*) by the Theodor-Storm-Schule and made it available to all schools in Schleswig-Holstein as educational material. In this film project, pupils researched the lives of Sinti and Roma in Schleswig-Holstein using the example of the White Family. In autumn 2020, the State Ministry for Education used the film production to provide online teacher training with representatives of the minority. (**Schleswig-Holstein**)
- Thuringia’s Ministry for Education, Youth and Sport (Ministerium für Bildung, Jugend und Sport; TMBJS) cooperates with Thuringia’s RomnoKher Association (RomnoKher Thüringen e. V.) on educational issues concerning Roma children in Thuringia. This happens in the context of talks with the state’s education offices on issues of migration, particularly in connection with the arrival of many Roma families from Ukraine and the prevention of educational disadvantage. (**Thuringia**)
- In the Thuringian police force, the topic of intercultural competence is addressed both in the basic training of the intermediate police service and in the bachelor’s degree on police service for the higher intermediate police service. Certain days are dedicated to the issues of racism, discrimination and prejudice, etc. Here, police recruits are made aware of stereotypes and prejudices and group-focused enmity in society and receive suggestions on how to deal with them in their daily work. In pursuing these objectives, the educational institutions of the Thuringian police cooperate with the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma. The Thuringian police tailor training courses to specific needs and target groups. (**Thuringia**)

c. Data, statistics or information to assess the impact of the measures taken

- Overall, there is a steady growing interest in training events in Brandenburg that raise awareness of victims of racist acts, which suggests that the need for appropriate knowledge and skills is being increasingly recognised. (**Brandenburg**)
- In Lower Saxony and at the German Judicial Academy (Deutsche Richterakademie; DRA), training on right-wing extremism and racism takes place on a regular basis. Training on human rights and non-discrimination is also offered on a regular basis at the DRA. (**Lower Saxony**)

The Advisory Committee encourages the authorities to further consolidate the support for the promotion of tolerance and understanding and thoroughly implement the action plans to combat racism and right-wing extremism. (Nos. 113 – 114 and 117)

The Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (Bundesministerium des Innern und für Heimat; BMI) reports that, following a series of right-wing terrorist attacks (murder of Dr Walter Lübcke, attacks in Halle on 9 October 2019 and Hanau on 19 February 2020), the Federal Cabinet decided on 18 March 2020 to set up a Cabinet Committee to combat right-wing extremism and racism. The Committee met for its inaugural meeting on 20 May 2020. Following a meeting between the Federal Government and the federal states at the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community and preliminary consultations with representatives from the research community, civil society and migrant organisations in August 2020, and following a hearing of representatives from the aforementioned groups at the second committee meeting on 2 September 2020, the Cabinet Committee presented a catalogue of measures on 25 November 2020. This was adopted by the Federal Cabinet on 2 December 2020 and includes 89 individual measures to combat right-wing extremism, racism, anti-semitism and other forms of group-focused enmity in the areas of security, prevention, research and social cohesion. The 89 individual measures which were adopted include the establishment of the civil-society Reporting and Information Office on Antigypsyism (Melde- und Informationsstelle Antiziganismus; MIA) (see comments in section C.I.7.).

With regard to the “National Action Plan Against Racism: Positions and Measures to Address Ideologies of Inequality and Related Discrimination” (NAP), please refer to the *comments in section D.III. of Germany’s Fifth Report on the Framework Convention.*

a. Policy and/or legislation implementing the recommendation

- Please refer to the comments in section *D.IV.1.a. (Hamburg)*
- The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein refers to the comments on the State Action Plan to Combat Racism in section *D.II.3*. In addition, Schleswig-Holstein's Ministry for Education is developing a strategy for measures to combat racism, aiming at strengthening the topics of extremism, democracy education and prevention in all three phases of teacher training and strengthening trainee teachers' skills in these areas through conceptual and proactive action. The first essential element of the strategy involved a certificate course for teachers offered by the Institute for Quality Development at Schools in Schleswig-Holstein (Institut für Qualitätsentwicklung an Schulen Schleswig-Holstein; IQSH), which was launched in the 2022/23 school year, with contribution from the Bertelsmann Stiftung and various consultancy institutions from Schleswig-Holstein. It includes eight modules on the different forms of extremism (right-wing extremism, anti-semitism, religiously motivated extremism, left-wing militance and conspiracy theories). The main objective of this certificate course is both to train teachers' knowledge on the different forms of extremism and to make them more aware. It also aims to provide teachers of all types of school with strategies to deal with situations in the classroom. The IQSH also offers a wide range of further training sessions for teachers on racism, including intercultural training to qualify as an intercultural coach, "No one talked to me' – talking about hostile attitudes in schools" (*Mit mir hat niemand geredet' – Ins Gespräch kommen über menschenverachtende Positionen in der Schule*) and the reading course titled "Overcoming racism" (*Rassismus überwinden*). (**Schleswig-Holstein**)

b. Practical measures and other relevant developments in implementing the recommendation

- The measures of the federal programme "Live Democracy!" (*Demokratie leben!*) focus specifically on the Federal Government's strategy for promoting democracy and preventing extremism and the National Action Plan Against Racism. The federal programme also implements the Cabinet Committee's catalogue of measures

to combat right-wing extremism and racism. As a result of adopting the catalogue of measures, the competence network to fight antigypsyism has been expanded to include two new pilot projects by two self-governed organisations, which now also receive funding. (***Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth***)

- Please refer to the comments in section *D.IV.1.b. (Hamburg)*
- In addition to regularly addressing topics such as tolerance, understanding, protection of minorities, racism and right-wing extremism in the degree programmes of its police department, the Hesse University of Public Management and Security (Hochschule für öffentliches Management und Sicherheit; HöMS) offers various types of education for its students, some of which are cross-disciplinary:
 - In 2021, transparency talks for students, teachers and staff were developed and conducted to provide transparency through the use of memes and online chat.
 - In addition, special events were organised by the HöMS in cooperation with Hesse's Information and Competence Centre Against Extremism (Hessisches Informations- und Kompetenzzentrum gegen Extremismus; HKE) for all students in their first semester of police studies. During the events, discussions are held with students on the impact of misconduct by police officers on individuals, the police organisation and society.
 - Compulsory elective modules during the final semester regularly offer the opportunity to address current issues. For example, one compulsory elective module was based on the attack of 19 February 2020 in Hanau. One of the current compulsory elective modules, in cooperation with RheinMain University, addresses the issue of right-wing extremism in police and social work. (***Hesse***)
- For the first time in October 2021, the higher education service (hochschuldidaktischer Dienst; HDD) of the HöMS launched the event series "Democracy and Human Rights Education" (*Demokratie- und Menschenrechtsbildung*), which included a session on the issue of violence and hate speech online. The series of

events is aimed at all students, lecturers and staff of the HöMS, regardless of their specialisation, as well as interested external participants. At regular intervals, a wide range of topics related to democracy and human rights education are prepared and discussed with the participants. (*Hesse*)

- Since 2021, a handout on democracy and values in teaching has been available to educators and all interested parties. It provides guidance in the areas of understanding fundamental rights, imparting values and democracy education. (*Hesse*)
- Annual university days – usually in cooperation with experts from civil society, the research community and the police – provide a space for keynotes and workshops for students, teachers and staff of public authorities. (*Hesse*)
- The certified training, which is made up of four components (orientation at university, foundations of teaching and blended learning, and “democracy, attitudes and values”) strengthens educators’ skills in these areas. The aim is to raise awareness among educators and students about pre-conceived perceptions and judgments which lead to stereotyping, prejudice and discrimination. (*Hesse*)
- In addition, the training programme of the Central Training Office of Hesse (Zentrale Fortbildung Hessen; ZFH), which is developed on an annual basis according to specific needs, offers training courses in the field of intercultural competence with different areas of focus. This training course is open to all employees of the Hesse state administration. (*Hesse*)
- Since 2019, courses on strengthening leadership skills have included a new mandatory module titled “Managing diverse and heterogeneous teams in a healthy and value-oriented manner” (*Diverse und heterogene Teams gesund und wertorientiert führen*). The main focus of this leadership module is on helping senior staff to deal with values, including their own, in relation to intercultural competence/diversity, health, family and career. Another objective is mastering diversity and differences as a management task, thereby helping staff to stay healthy. Intercultural competence and, moreover, dealing with diversity in a constructive manner, requires a significant degree of self-reflection. For this reason, this module focuses primarily on self-perception and self-reflection. (*Hesse*)

- It also provides certified training for university lecturers, addressing the topics of democratic teaching and learning, conflict as an opportunity for political participation, discrimination versus equal treatment and integration into one's own teaching. (*Hesse*)

The Advisory Committee encourages the authorities to carefully consider the recommendation of the Independent Commission on Antigypsyism on establishing a commission to inquire the injustices done to members of the community in post-war Germany in close consultation with Sinti and Roma representatives. (Nos. 115 und 118)

The **Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community** (Bundesministerium des Innern und für Heimat; BMI) confirms that the recommendation is in line with the IHRA Ministerial Declaration of 19 January 2020 and the IHRA definition of antigypsyism of 8 October 2020.

The **Federal Government Commissioner for the Fight against Antigypsyism and for Sinti and Roma Life in Germany** sees the request of the Independent Commission on Antigypsyism to establish a commission to address the injustice committed against Roma and Sinti in Germany as an important element in combating the continuing consequences of the genocide of Sinti and Roma, which members of the minority continue to suffer in almost all areas of life. It has taken initial steps towards creating a commission. Preliminary findings from a feasibility study on the establishment of such a commission were presented and discussed by a wide range of Sinti and Roma representatives at a specialist forum in Berlin on 2 October 2023.

2. Portrayal of Sinti and Roma in the media

The Advisory Committee encourages the authorities to increase their efforts to counter the reproduction of stereotypes about Sinti and Roma in the media through supporting media production by Sinti and Roma themselves and awareness raising among journalists in mainstream media. (Nos. 119 – 122)

The **Federal Government and the federal states** point out that, because of the media independence of broadcasters, they have no power to influence the programme schedules of the various media providers. This also applies to media production by Sinti and Roma.

The *Free State of Thuringia* reports that no relevant requests or projects were submitted for media funding in the federal state in 2022.

a. **Policy and/or legislation implementing the recommendation**

- The Code of Conduct of international broadcaster Deutsche Welle, which falls under the remit of the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media, applies to all employees inside and outside of the work context with regard to public statements, including on social media or in other publications. The Code of Conduct was made more stringent in 2022. The previous version of the Code of Conduct already included protection against discrimination based on ethnic origin. The existing anti-discrimination already policy was made more specific with regard to antisemitism and the possibilities of enforcement under labour law. The Code of Conduct has been translated into several languages and is part of mandatory training (e-learning). (***Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media***)
- Freedom of broadcasting, which is protected by the constitution, is an essential factor in the formation of public opinion and views. Broadcasting enjoys institutional autonomy. State interference in the programming and reporting of public service broadcasters is not permitted. All the authorities can do is encourage the broadcasting institutions to take due account of national minorities in their programmes. Demands that go further than this, i.e. on specific content, would violate the programming autonomy of the public service broadcaster Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg (rbb), which is protected by the constitution. (***Berlin, Brandenburg***)
- Please refer to section 3 of the Radio Bremen Act (*Radio-Bremen-Gesetz*, RBG): The programming mission should therefore be understood as preventing the reproduction of stereotypes about Sinti and Roma in the media. The same applies to the programming principles under section 14 of the Bremen Media Act (*Bremisches Landesmediengesetz*, BremLMG). (***Bremen***)
- Under the Interstate Media Treaty (*Medienstaatsvertrag*, MStV), public service broadcasters are required to provide in their offerings a comprehensive overview of international, European, national and regional events in all key areas of

life. In this way, they are supposed to promote international understanding, European integration and social cohesion at federal and state level. They are also obligated to abide by the principles of objectivity and non-partisanship. According to the provisions of the state treaty with the public service broadcaster Südwestrundfunk (SWR), the Broadcasting Board represents the interests of the general public in the field of broadcasting, while paying attention to the diversity of public opinion. In Germany, the government is not allowed to exert any influence on the programming of media providers due to the freedom of the press and of reporting guaranteed in Article 5 (1), second sentence, of Germany's Basic Law and the resulting autonomy of the media and of programming. (**Baden-Württemberg, Rhineland-Palatinate**)

- Schleswig-Holstein refers to the measures described in sections *D.V.1. and D.V.2.* which also serve to counter the reproduction of stereotypes and prejudices about Sinti and Roma. In particular, the representation of persons belonging to minorities is an important element in media regulatory bodies. (**Schleswig-Holstein**)

b. Practical measures and other relevant developments in implementing the recommendation

- The federal programme "Live Democracy!" (*Demokratie leben!*) provides funding to two pilot projects that support media productions by Sinti and Roma and raise awareness among journalists in mainstream media. The RomaniPhen Association (RomaniPhen e. V.) runs a project titled "*Romnja-Power (Main-) Streaming*". This project aims to test online-based approaches to the empowerment of Sinti and Roma. To this end, an online magazine is being developed, focusing in particular on women and girls. Written, pictorial and cinematographic contributions are intended to help the general public understand the perspectives of Sinti and Roma and to raise awareness of the diversity of this community. The project also aims to make visible the experiences of people affected by multiple discrimination. The Amaro Foro Association (Amaro Foro e. V.) runs a project titled "Diversity in Media". Training or tailored advice on antigypsyism is offered free of charge to media professionals. In addition to training, the Amaro Foro Association is work-

ing on long-term cooperation with journalism schools to enshrine the issue of antigypsyism in their curricula. The project is expected to result in a handbook in 2024, which will be made available free of charge to media professionals to help with non-discriminatory and sensitive media coverage. Different formats of exchange and cooperation with editorial staff are also being developed and consolidated to increase Sinti and Roma's representation of themselves in the media. A photo pool is also being developed and made available to ensure that photo editors have access to non-stereotypical images. (**Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth**)

- Since 2020, under the state programme “Democracy. Diversity. Respect. Against Right-Wing Extremism, Racism and Antisemitism” (*Demokratie. Vielfalt. Respekt. Gegen Rechtsextremismus, Rassismus und Antisemitismus*), the federal state of Berlin has co-financed the funding project “Diversity in Media – pilot project to raise awareness of antigypsyism (*Diversity in Media – Modellprojekt zur Sensibilisierung von Medienschaffenden für Antiziganismus*). This project is funded as part of the federal programme “Live Democracy!” (*Demokratie leben!*) The pilot project aims to raise awareness among media professionals and journalists of antigypsyism, making them more aware of discrimination when reporting on issues relating to Sinti and Roma. (**Berlin**)
- Efforts to counter the reproduction of stereotypes about Sinti and Roma in the media are presented on the basis of information provided by the public service broadcaster Norddeutsche Rundfunk (NDR).
NDR journalists are trained and made aware of the issue. Workshops have been held on modern, fair and non-discriminatory language, as well as diversity. (**Hamburg**)
- In addition to regular awareness-raising among editorial staff, the issue is addressed directly on a regular basis. In recent years, the difficult situation of Sinti and Roma has been reported on in various areas in order to raise awareness and counter stereotypes. For example, the public service broadcaster ARTE has produced two reports for the *ARTE Re* channel over the past two years addressing the situation of Roma. Four years ago, journalists from the documentary channel

STRG_F produced a documentary titled “From Hamburg into the Roma slums: A story of expulsion” (*Von Hamburg in die Roma-Slums: Geschichte einer Abschiebung*). Gianni Jovanovic was a guest and Roma representative on the programme “DAS!” on 21 March 2022 and on the programme “NDR Talk Show” on 22 April 2022. (**Hamburg**)

- In its press releases, the Hamburg police generally mention the sex, age and nationality of defendants/persons, unless tactical reasons or aspects pertaining to the protection of minors prevent them from doing so. Information on membership of a minority is usually not provided. Exceptions are possible where persons have been the victim of a crime largely because of their minority background. The exact choice of words in these cases is agreed with the unit LKA 7 (state security) of the State Criminal Police Office (Landeskriminalamt; LKA). (**Hamburg**)
- In recent years, Hesse has encouraged dialogue between the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V. – Landesverband Hesse) and the state public service broadcaster (Landesrundfunkanstalt). However, according to the information available, representatives of the Sinti and Roma have not yet asked representatives of the public service broadcaster Hessischer Rundfunk to produce programmes in the Romani language. Hessischer Rundfunk remains open to engaging in dialogue with the Association on this matter. (**Hesse**)

3. Protection from hostility and violence

The Advisory Committee calls on the authorities to set up comprehensive reporting mechanisms of hate speech and hate crimes and intensify efforts to prevent, investigate and sanction such incidents. The authorities should further evaluate the effectiveness of the Network Enforcement Act in reducing online hate speech against persons belonging to national minorities. (Nos.123 – 133)

Antigypsyist crimes have been recorded specifically by the police reporting service for politically motivated crimes (Kriminalpolizeilicher Meldedienst – Politisch motivierter Kriminalität; KPMD-PMK) since 2017 as part of the field of hate crime (similar to other forms of hate crime, such as crimes motivated by antisemitism or anti-Islam sentiment).

When the annual data on politically motivated crimes are presented, the statistics are updated annually on the website of the **Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community**²³ (Bundesministerium des Innern und für Heimat; BMI). Crimes motivated by antigypsyism are identified separately in several areas, for example in the comprehensive “Fact Sheet” or in long-term comparisons, which make it possible to track developments in different types of hate crime, dating back to 2001.

In addition, the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community communicates the number of cases and, where appropriate, carries out further assessments in response to parliamentary and media requests and in communication with representatives of civil society.

The KPMD-PMK is operated jointly by the Federal Government and the federal states and is continuously further developed. The local police authorities of the federal states are responsible for writing up incident reports and recording offences.

a. Policy and/or legislation implementing the recommendation

- Group-related insults are often the subject of online hate speech. On 30 June 2017, the Bundestag adopted the Act to Improve Enforcement of the Law in Social Networks (*Netzwerkdurchsetzungsgesetz*, NetzDG, Federal Law Gazette I p. 3352), which entered into force on 1 October 2017. The Act to Improve Enforcement of the Law in Social Networks aims to combat hate crime, criminal fake news and other criminal content on social networking platforms more effectively. These include insult, defamation, public provocation, hate speech and threat. Subject to fines in the case of non-compliance, the Act to Improve Enforcement of the Law in Social Networks requires large social networks to:
 - increase the transparency of their deletion practices (reporting obligation);
 - maintain effective complaint systems (compliance);

²³ <https://www.bmi.bund.de/DE/themen/sicherheit/kriminalitaetsbekaempfung-und-gefahrenabwehr/politisch-motivierte-kriminalitaet/politisch-motivierte-kriminalitaet-node.html> (as at 10 October 2023)

- designate a person in the Federal Republic of Germany who is authorised to receive legally served documents and a person in the Federal Republic of Germany who is authorised to receive information requests from German law enforcement authorities. (***Federal Ministry of Justice***)
- In addition, the Federal Government intends to strengthen the rights of persons targeted by online hate speech and incitement by means of a law to fight digital violence, while strengthening individual legal enforcement (e.g. by requesting information from platform operators) against those who have committed digital violence. (***Federal Ministry of Justice***)
- At European level, the Digital Services Act (DSA), which will be fully applicable as of February 2024, will regulate the fight against online hate speech in a uniform way across the EU and thus largely supersede national rules.
The DSA requires online platforms to put in place a mechanism to enable users to report illegal content. In addition, offences that endanger the life or safety of persons must be reported by the platform operators to the competent law enforcement authorities. Infringements may be subject to fines of up to 6% of the total annual turnover and periodic penalty payments of up to 5% of the average daily income or annual turnover of the provider in question. (***Federal Ministry of Justice***)
- In accordance with the principle of mandatory prosecution (sections 152 (2) and 170 (1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (*Strafprozessordnung, StPO*)), law enforcement authorities are required to conduct investigations where there is an initial suspicion of a criminal offence, regardless of the persons against whom they were committed. (***Federal Ministry of Justice***)
- In principle, a specialised prosecutor's office or a special department may offer the advantage of greater specialisation. Under section 143 (4) of the Courts Constitution Act (*Gerichtsverfassungsgesetz, GVG*), it is possible to set up specialised prosecutors' offices specific to certain crimes. It is also possible to set up certain special departments within the organisational structure of the public prosecutors' offices.

Whether or not the establishment of specialised prosecutors' offices or special departments is appropriate must be assessed on a case-by-case basis and "on the ground" by the respective state judicial authorities, as the decision of whether to set up special prosecutors' offices or special departments lies with the federal states. In the area of hate crime, many federal states have established specialised prosecutors' offices or special departments. (*Federal Ministry of Justice*)

- At the 2022 spring conference, the justice ministers requested that the criminal law committee examine whether and how the different services offered by the federal states regarding the reporting of online hate crime could be expanded, improved and made more effective. In this context, a joint federal and state working group on online services for citizens to report hate speech was set up under the leadership of Hamburg and North Rhine-Westphalia. The working group is currently gathering a comprehensive overview of the existing possibilities for reporting hate crime at state level. The final report is to be presented to the justice ministers at the upcoming criminal law committee in September 2023, as well as at the autumn conference. (*All federal states / Federal Government*)
- The Baden-Württemberg Centre for Democracy offers the reporting offices "REspect!" und "#Antisemitism" (*#Antisemitismus*). They offer a way to report online hate speech and incitement directly online and a way to report antisemitic incidents in person. The offices assess whether the reports involve a criminal offence and, if necessary, take further action: Platform operators are informed of the reports and requested to delete the posts Criminal offences are reported Advice and support is provided to victims. The "#Antisemitismus" reporting office focuses on reporting and assessing antisemitic incidents. The reporting offices are run by the Jugendstiftung foundation. Since June 2022, the Jugendstiftung foundation and the Baden-Württemberg Ministry for Social Affairs, Health and Integration (Ministerium für Soziales, Gesundheit und Integration; MSGI) have cooperated with the state government of Bavaria with regard to the "REspect!" reporting office in order to make the office and networking contacts with counselling services available in Bavaria, too. The Baden-Württemberg Centre for Democracy is funded by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens,

Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend; BMFSFJ) under the federal programme “Live Democracy!” (*Demokratie Leben!*) and the Baden-Württemberg Ministry for Social Affairs, Health and Integration. (**Baden-Württemberg**)

- As part of the #HESSEGENGEGENHETZE campaign to combat right-wing extremism, violence and online hate speech, on 16 January 2020, the state government of Hesse established the state reporting office “HessenGegenHetze”.

Citizens, municipalities, public authorities and many other bodies can contact the office if they are affected by hate speech or discover hateful, extremist or criminal language online. Content can be reported – also anonymously – via a form²⁴, email or telephone. The office has created a way for very low-threshold reports, such as racist statements online, to be submitted to the security authorities – i.e. the police, constitutional protection and the judiciary. The reported posts are documented by the reporting office, subject to an initial assessment, and are forwarded to the competent authorities. To this end, the reporting office works closely with the Hesse Criminal Police Office (Hessisches Landeskriminalamt; HLKA), the central unit for combating online and computer crime (ZIT Hessen) at the Frankfurt am Main Public Prosecutor General’s Office and Hesse’s Office for the Protection of the Constitution (Landesamt für Verfassungsschutz; LfV). Where necessary, it refers victims to counselling and support services offered by governmental and non-governmental partners. (**Hesse**)

- The “No Power for Hate Speech” (*Keine Macht dem Hass*)²⁵ initiative is part of the campaign. Media companies and civil-society institutions can use a simple and efficient procedure to report criminal offences more easily, for example for comments to incite hate speech and violence, as well as other criminal content, such as threats or hate speech on the platforms they operate or on social networks. Since 1 October 2019, instead of submitting a report of a criminal offence in writ-

²⁴ www.hessengegenhetze.de (as at 12 October 2023)

²⁵ <https://keinemachtdehass.de/> (as at 12 October 2023)

ing and attaching data carriers or printouts, media houses, non-governmental organisations and other project partners have been able to send posts with hate speech electronically via secure transmission channels directly to the ZIT. The ZIT receives and processes these tips. The cooperation partners usually receive a reply from the ZIT within a short period of time. (*Hesse*)

- Please refer also to the comments on the federal state of Hesse in *section E.IV.1. of Germany's Fifth Report*. (*Hesse*)
- Lower Saxony's state programme to promote democracy and human rights aims to strengthen liberal, democratic and human rights-oriented attitudes and behaviours and counter politically motivated extremism. In preventing politically motivated crime, Lower Saxony's Criminal Police Office focuses on preventive work on a case-by-case basis for particularly vulnerable and radicalised persons, support and counselling for victims and their loved ones, cooperation with civil society (networking) and measures to promote democracy (e.g. raising awareness among relevant target groups). Cooperation with civil-society stakeholders helps to reduce possible prejudices against the police, thereby increasing trust in the police and the willingness of those affected by antigypsyism to report the crimes. The establishment of local networks for the prevention of extremism plays an important role in this regard. The aim is to create permanent structures at local level and to empower stakeholders to deal with extremism prevention through regular dialogue and exchange formats. (*Lower Saxony*)
- Among other things, victims of online crimes should be able to have a user account blocked by the courts in a timely manner. The plan was to implement this important objective through an initiative of the Bundesrat. Following the announcement of this objective, the Federal Ministry of Justice published a policy paper for a law to fight digital violence. The topic was then also promoted at the spring conference of justice ministers. (*Lower Saxony*)
- The police of the federal state of Rhineland-Palatinate are preparing to carry out the new tasks arising from the proposed legislation "to bring the rules on disclosing subscriber information in line with the requirements of the decision of the Fed-

eral Constitutional Court of 27 May 2020” and have created the necessary structures and procedures for proper fulfilment of the tasks. Please refer also to the comments in section *D.II.3. (Rhineland-Palatinate)*

- In early 2022, Saarland launched the cooperation project “Courage Online – Fighting Hate Speech and Incitement Together” (*Courage im Netz – Gemeinsam gegen Hass und Hetze*). The cooperation project, which involves Saarland’s state media authority, the State Ministry of Justice, represented by the Public Prosecutor’s Office of Saarbrücken (special department for cyber crime), Saarland’s Ministry of the Interior, Building and Sport (Ministerium für Inneres, Bauen und Sport; MIBS), the State Police Headquarters and the State Ministry for Labour, Social Affairs, Women and Health (Ministerium für Arbeit, Soziales, Frauen und Gesundheit; MASFG), sends a clear message against messages of hate speech online. The focus is on defending the fundamental rights of every person online. At the same time, the aim is to protect freedom of non-violent forms of expression. To ensure this, the project “Courage Online – Fighting Hate Speech and Incitement Together” provides efficient procedures to participating partners for reporting criminal activity and provides contact points to facilitate the procedural process. The project is based on two pillars: The first pillar focuses on activities for identification and de-escalation in the field of prevention and on training with regard to disciplined disputes. The second pillar offers the area of law enforcement a user-friendly form for reporting crimes on police websites (*Onlinewache*). The *Onlinewache* for reporting hate speech is available to all citizens via the Saarland police station. (*Saarland*)

b. Practical measures and other relevant developments in implementing the recommendation

- The No Hate Speech Movement campaign is an initiative of the Council of Europe and has been promoted in Germany by the Federal Government under the federal programme “Live Democracy!” (*Demokratie leben!*) since the beginning of 2016. The campaign, which is broadly based on a network of national committees, is aimed primarily at young people with the goal of combating the acceptance of hate speech in particular. (*Federal Ministry of Justice*)

- In addition, since 2017, the federal programme “Live Democracy!” has been dedicated to a new area titled “Strengthening online commitment – combatting online hate speech” (*Stärkung des Engagements im Netz – gegen Hass im Netz*). (**Federal Ministry of Justice**)
- In addition, the Federal Government supports various projects, including research projects, that address online hate speech. These include counselling and support services for victims. (**Federal Ministry of Justice**)
- In addition to establishing the Cabinet Committee “Resolute in the fight against hate speech and incitement” (*Entschlossen gegen Hass und Hetze*), the Baden-Württemberg Criminal Police Office (Landeskriminalamt Baden-Württemberg; LKA BW) has set up a task force to fight hate speech and incitement which provides information on offices where hate crime can be reported, as well as support/counselling and educational services on hate speech and incitement, including on its website.²⁶ Services for reporting incidents or crimes include, for example, the Baden-Württemberg police’s *Onlinewache* or the “REspect!” office. Other members of the task force include the Baden-Württemberg Authority for Communication (Landesanstalt für Kommunikation Baden-Württemberg; LFK), the State Agency for Civic Education (Landeszentrale für politische Bildung), the State Office for the Protection of the Constitution (Landesamt für Verfassungsschutz; LfV), the Institute for Education Analysis (Institut für Bildungsanalysen; IBBW), the Centre for School Quality and Teacher Training (Zentrum für Schulqualität und Lehrerbildung; ZSL), the Centre for Democracy and the State Media Centre (Landesmedienzentrum Baden-Württemberg; LMZ-BW). One of the priorities is to strengthen media literacy, especially among young people. The task force also has the function of reviewing existing measures to combat hate crime and initiating and implementing new measures, acting as an instrument that pools and steers competences. For example, the aforementioned task force developed a pocket-sized reference card for staff of the departments and institutions

²⁶ www.initiative-toleranz-im-netz.de (as at 10 October 2023)

of the Baden-Württemberg police force which contains information on how to file a report, as well as information on counselling and support services for victims. In addition, overviews with instructions on how to act, criminal offences and contact details of data protection organisations were distributed to all the departments that receive reports. For a while, all workplace computers in the offices and premises of the Baden-Württemberg police force displayed a notice with a link to the services whenever the screens were locked. (*Baden-Württemberg*)

- Contact points for hate crime have been designated for the state security divisions of the regional police headquarters and the Baden-Württemberg Criminal Police Office (Landeskriminalamt Baden-Württemberg; LKA BW). The contact points play an important role within their own agencies, acting as a clearing house and monitoring office for the relevant investigation procedures. As experts on specific crimes, they thus ensure a comprehensive level of knowledge on the situation in their region. They are also available as contact points, among other things, for the local specialised departments on hate crime at the public prosecutors' offices. The contact points also advise victims on hate speech and incitement even if the individual incidents do not constitute a criminal offence, and provide counselling and/or prevention services. (*Baden-Württemberg*)
- In addition, a new process has recently been established within the Baden-Württemberg police to further improve and standardise the quality of processing reports of online hate speech and incitement to the police throughout the country, as well as the possibilities for the police to encourage the deletion of criminal content online. (*Baden-Württemberg*)
- The Cabinet Committee on "Resolution against hate speech and incitement" and the task force to fight hate speech and incitement regularly publish social media posts to gain public attention, such as a campaign titled "Together for diversity and tolerance in Baden-Württemberg" in July 2022. This campaign promoted a shared commitment to diversity and tolerance in our society, with contributions from several (also prominent) ambassadors, some of whom were Sinti and Roma.

The task force also organises series of campaign days that allow citizens, for example, to follow online posts on how to deal with hate speech and incitement, and to ask experts their questions. (*Baden-Württemberg*)

- In November 2022, the office of the Cabinet Committee organised a network meeting on antisemitic (hate) crime with the aim of connecting key interlocutors in this field at police, judicial, political and civil-society level. In addition, in February 2023, the network meeting “Fighting Hate Speech and Incitement Together” (*Gemeinsam gegen Hass und Hetze*) was organised in order to intensify dialogue with civil-society institutions. In attendance were representatives of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that are active in the field of hate speech and incitement, as well as interest groups for hate speech and incitement. The event enabled interest groups to network and participants were able to learn about the needs of NGOs for further work within the Cabinet Committee. (*Baden-Württemberg*)
- With the development of the Baden-Württemberg police’s new online form for reporting crimes (*Onlinewache*), a dedicated module was created for reporting online hate speech and incitement, as well as an upload feature for documents, screenshots and images, making it much easier to report online hate speech and incitement. The *Onlinewache*, which was launched in Baden-Württemberg on 31 January 2023, is a result of the joint federal and state project titled “Reporting crime” (*Anzeige*), which involved 10 other federal states (Bremen, Hesse, Hamburg, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Rhineland-Palatinate, Saarland, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein and Thuringia) in addition to Baden-Württemberg. Another way to report crimes is via the anonymous whistleblowing system BKMS. (*Baden-Württemberg*)
- The Bavarian judiciary is continuously improving its measures to effectively address hate speech in law enforcement. The aim of these measures is to ensure the necessary expertise on the ground through specialisation in the area, while at the same time ensuring centralisation and coordination where appropriate. In each of the 22 Bavarian public prosecutors’ offices, special departments to combat hate speech were set up on 1 January 2020. They compile the cases concerning

punishable online hate speech online and incitement which are to be dealt with by the authority. The public prosecutors involved network at regional level and strengthen the fight against hate speech as a powerful unit under criminal law. In doing so, they are encouraged to strongly prosecute punishable hate speech. Prosecution is generally in the public interest. As a result, referrals to private prosecution and dismissals according to the discretionary principle (“*Opportunitätseinstellungen*”) pursuant to section 153 et seqq. of the Code of Criminal Procedure (*Strafprozessordnung, StPO*) are limited to exceptional cases and require particularly careful evaluation and justification. (**Bavaria**)

- On 1 January 2020, a representative of the Bavarian judiciary was appointed to combat hate speech under criminal law (“Hate Speech Commissioner”). The Commissioner’s office is at the Centre for Counter-Extremism and Counter-Terrorism (Zentralstelle zur Bekämpfung von Extremismus und Terrorismus; ZET), located at the Munich Public Prosecutor General’s Office. The Hate Speech Commissioner is responsible for coordinating the work of the specialised departments of local public prosecutors and assisting them in the fight against hate speech under criminal law. In particular, the Hate Speech Commissioner works to ensure uniform standards in dealing with cases. By working under the remit of the ZET, the Hate Speech Commissioner is also responsible for conducting proceedings for criminal hate speech throughout Bavaria. These proceedings are of particular importance. (**Bavaria**)
- In June 2022, following the success of the existing online reporting procedures, Bavaria’s Ministry of Justice (Staatsministerium der Justiz; STMJ), its Ministry for Family Affairs, Labour and Social Affairs (Staatsministerium für Familie, Arbeit und Soziales; STMAS) and its Ministry of the Interior, Sport and Integration (Staatsministerium des Innern, für Sport und Integration; STMI) concluded a cooperation agreement with Baden-Württemberg’s Ministry for Social Affairs, Health and Integration (Ministerium für Soziales, Gesundheit und Integration; MSGI) and the Jugendstiftung foundation. According to this agreement, the “REspect!” reporting office in Baden-Württemberg’s Centre for Democracy is now also available to all Bavarian citizens for reporting hate speech. This cooperation

allows all Bavarian citizens to report hate speech quickly and easily online. In addition, citizens can also receive advice. This pilot project opens up the possibility to report hate speech quickly and easily online via the dedicated website²⁷. The reports are first checked by the “REspect!” reporting office to assess whether the incidents are punishable under criminal law and are then passed on to law enforcement authorities. Cooperation with a civil-society body such as “REspect!” further lowers the threshold for reporting hate speech and provides a low-threshold opportunity to report criminal content online. In this way, law enforcement authorities can be informed of hate speech even more comprehensively and more quickly. (*Bavaria*)

- In early 2023, the Bavarian police appointed a Bavarian Police Commissioner for Hate Crime, in particular Antisemitism. The tasks of the Commissioner include, in particular, the following:
 - Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for external bodies
 - Participation in networking meetings with other relevant bodies
 - Presentation and assessment of the situation in Bavaria
 - (Further) development of new preventive and punitive counter-strategies/measures with external bodies
 - Participation in (nationwide) working meetings (working groups, committees, workshops) on hate crime
 - Representation of the Bavarian police in Bavaria-wide, nationwide and international publicity measures (e.g. for German Prevention Day)
 - Initiation and coordination of campaign days across Bavaria (*Bavaria*)
- In order to continue to consistently combat hate speech, an amendment to the Network Enforcement Act (*Netzwerkdurchsetzungsgesetz, NetzDG*) came into force on 1 February 2022, according to which providers of large social networks are obliged to actively report certain criminal content to the Federal Criminal Police Office (Bundeskriminalamt; BKA), which acts as the central agency. The BKA

²⁷ www.meldestelle-respect.de (as at 12 October 2023)

then forwards the reports to the competent criminal police offices of the federal states as part of a pre-defined process. For this purpose, the Bavarian Criminal Police Office (Bayerisches Landeskriminalamt; BLKA) set up a Bavarian counterpart to the Central Reporting Office for Unlawful Content Online (Zentrale Meldestelle zur Bekämpfung strafbarer Inhalte im Internet; ZMI) of the BKA. From there, the reports are to be forwarded to the competent police authorities in Bavaria.

The exhaustive list of offences for reporting to the BKA as part of the “ZMI process” is regulated in the Network Enforcement Act. In this respect, for example, acts which qualify as insults under section 185 of the Criminal Code (*Strafgesetzbuch*; StGB) are not covered by the reporting obligation under section 3a of the Network Enforcement Act. However, by decisions of 1 March 2022, the Administrative Court of Cologne ruled in proceedings for temporary relief that central provisions of the amended Network Enforcement Act were inapplicable due to a violation of EU law. The Administrative Court thus partially granted expedited applications against the Federal Republic of Germany by Google Ireland Ltd. (YouTube) and Meta Platforms Ireland Limited (Facebook/Instagram). This means that, in this individual case, the obligation under section 3a of the Network Enforcement Act to report punishable statements to the BKA was deemed inapplicable due to a violation of EU law, at least in the case of YouTube, Facebook and Instagram. Currently, there are also cases by Twitter and TikTok pending before the Administrative Court of Cologne against obligations under the Network Enforcement Act. Since the decisions of the Administrative Court of Cologne only have effect between the litigants, the provisions of the Network Enforcement Act, which were provisionally suspended for the claimants only, remain applicable to third parties. The extent to which the reporting obligation is generally enforced at the moment is a matter for the competent authority – in this case the Federal Office of Justice (Bundesamt für Justiz; BfJ). (**Bavaria**)

- Citizens in Bavaria also have at their disposal links and information on all services offered by the state government on hate speech and, in particular, on the reporting procedures of the Bavarian judiciary.²⁸ (**Bavaria**)
- The federal state of Berlin monitors antigypsyist incidents through the Documentation Centre for Antigypsyism (Dokumentationsstelle Antiziganismus; DOSTA) of Amaro Foro e. V., which has been funded since 2014 as part of the state programme “Democracy. Diversity. Respect. Against Right-Wing Extremism, Racism and Antisemitism” (*Demokratie. Vielfalt. Respekt. Gegen Rechtsextremismus, Rassismus und Antisemitismus*) The project involves the following: recording and documenting incidents of antigypsyism, initial consultation for affected individuals, referrals where necessary, analysis and processing of incidents, measures to raise awareness of antigypsyism, public relations and the annual publication of the annual reports. The project thus contributes to raising awareness among stakeholders in politics, the media and society. (**Berlin**)
- A Central Office for Combating Hate Crime in Brandenburg (Zentralstelle zur Bekämpfung von Hasskriminalität im Land Brandenburg) was set up at the Brandenburg Public Prosecutor General’s Office on 1 July 2021 in order to further strengthen the fight against right-wing extremist and racist crimes among other things. The Office is responsible for all forms of hate crime. Particular focus is also placed on recording violent offences. The Office has since been responsible for coordinating law enforcement authorities in regional proceedings, for expert dialogue between the competent departments of the public prosecutors’ offices of the state of Brandenburg and for cooperation with other authorities, such as the police, constitutional protection or federal authorities, as well as civil-society institutions. It also aims to detect and remedy shortcomings in the fight against crime. It can also take over the investigation in particularly prominent cases, particularly in cases involving right-wing extremist motives. The Office also has its own website and an email address to make

²⁸ www.bayern-gegen-hass.de (as at 10 October 2023)

communication as easy as possible. Contact points for hate crime have also been appointed at the regional public prosecutors' offices. (**Brandenburg**)

- The Free Hanseatic City of Bremen is committed to combating online hate crime and hate speech and has taken various measures to address them. For example, Bremen has a wide range of initiatives dealing with hate crime, hate speech and online violence, including in the context of the State Action Plan “Protecting women and children from violence – Implementation of the Istanbul Convention” (*Frauen und Kinder vor Gewalt schützen – Umsetzung der Istanbul-Konvention*), which was adopted in March 2022. (**Bremen**)
- In addition, the Senator for the Interior of Bremen is currently planning to set up a multilingual online reporting office for online hate speech. The aim of this reporting office is to help curb the spread of online hate speech and incitement and to protect users. For the different types/categories of hate speech and incitement, initial consultations may be provided online, or individuals may be referred to counselling services which have specialised in providing support to users. There are also a wide range of measures and initiatives in Bremen, such as the Centre for Democracy; the Mobile Advisory Team against right-wing extremism in Bremen and Bremerhaven (MBT); a cross-project conference for Safer Internet Day in 2021; an independent documentation and online project for combating right-wing extremist, racist and antisemitic violence and activities in Bremen, Bremerhaven and the surrounding area²⁹; the “soliport” counselling service, which advises and supports people who experience hostility or are attacked because of appearance, language, homelessness, religion or emancipatory attitudes; and the pilot project “future fabric”, which combines educational formats in democracy and media education. (**Bremen**)
- The website of Bremen’s Senator for Justice and the Constitution (Senatorin für Justiz und Verfassung) also focuses on online hate speech and incitement under

²⁹ <http://www.keine-randnotiz.de> (as at 10 October 2023)

the section “*Hasskriminalität entgegenreten!*”³⁰ (“Fighting hate crime!”). The websites of the civil-society organisations HateAid and Respect are linked there. Victims can report incidents on these websites. Reference is also made to a special mailbox of the Bremen police.³¹ Bremen also participates in the joint federal and state working group on hate crime. This working group examines the possibilities and needs of a (nationwide) judicial reporting portal. The final report is expected in autumn 2023. (**Bremen**)

- In its state programme “Hamburg – A city with courage” (*Hamburg – Stadt mit Courage*), the Hamburg Senate highlighted the prevention and combating of right-wing extremism as key objectives, and committed to supporting and empowering those affected by discriminatory structures and incidents and, where appropriate, to intervening in education when it comes to right-wing extremist attitudes. The “empower” counselling service provides advice to those affected by right-wing extremist, racist and antisemitic violence, as well as to their relatives and friends and to witnesses. This includes cases of antigypsyism. In addition to providing emotional support to cope with attacks or threats, the counselling involves advice on further steps; advice on legal options; accompaniment on visits to the authorities, police and court; the provision of therapeutic and medical services; advice on financial support (e.g. legal aid, compensation) and strengthening solidarity processes in the lives of affected individuals. The project’s work focuses on the perspective of the affected individuals. Counselling is confidential, free of charge and, upon request, anonymous. Counselling can be provided in different languages where needed. The “empower” project is home to “memo”, where those affected by right-wing extremist, antisemitic, racist and thus antigypsyist violence can report incidents easily and in different languages online. Individuals can choose to report the incidents anonymously. (**Hamburg**)
- Prosecution in the context of hate crime offences is carried out in the State Security Division of Hamburg’s State Criminal Police Office (Landeskriminalamt;

³⁰ <https://www.justiz.bremen.de/opferschutz/hasskriminalitaet-19703> (as at 12 October 2023)

³¹ hassanzeigen@polizei.bremen.de

LKA). The Federal Criminal Police Office (Bundekriminalamt; BKA) carries out nationwide evaluations upon request in cases of politically motivated crime (KTA-PMK). To this end, the “Hate Crime” section of the Police Reporting Service for politically motivated crime (KPM-D-PMK) has a sub-section titled “Antigypsyist”. Staff are made aware of the issue of hate crime and are educated by the senate-funded counselling service “empower” for those affected by right-wing extremist, racist and antisemitic violence. In addition, unit LKA 702 for the prevention of violent ideologies (“Prävention gewaltzentrierte Ideologien”) regularly interacts with competent specialist departments and other police bodies (complaints management, Institute for Transcultural Competence (Institut für Transkulturelle Kompetenz; ITK), Hamburg Police Academy) on hate crime and provides assistance in the field of prevention. (*Hamburg*)

- The creation of the Central Reporting Office for Unlawful Content Online (Zentrale Meldestelle zur Bekämpfung strafbarer Inhalte im Internet; ZMI) for the Federal Government and the federal states at the BKA was a response to the Council of Europe Advisory Committee’s call for intensive investigation and punishment of hate speech and hate crime. This includes antigypsyism. However, on the basis of the Network Enforcement Act (*Netzwerkdurchsetzungsgesetz, NetzDG*), no figures can be generated for the Federal Government and the federal states on the basis of claims from the obliged telemedia service providers. On the contrary, since 1 February 2022 (legal start of operation according to the Network Enforcement Act), figures are generated by the voluntary involvement of cooperation partners, based on an extended ZMI catalogue of offences. Accordingly, the effectiveness of the Network Enforcement Act is currently not objectively measurable. (*Hamburg*)
- In 2019, the Central Office for the Police’s Fight against Online Hate Crime (Zentralstelle zur polizeilichen Bekämpfung der Hasskriminalität im Internet; ZBHI) was set up as a separate project organisation unit in the State Security Division of the Lower Saxony Criminal Police Office. The ZBHI, which has since become part of the day-to-day organisation, ensures the necessary coordination, analysis and

investigative functions in relation to online hate crime, as well as the development of basic anti-prevention strategies. (*Lower Saxony*)

- Another key task is the collection of information (“lists”) in the context of politically motivated crime and the associated provision of information to affected individuals. (*Lower Saxony*)
- Online monitoring and/or online investigations in connection with hate crime, the identification of criminal content and cooperation with the ZMI at the BKA are also key tasks. (*Lower Saxony*)
- In 2020, Lower Saxony’s Ministry of Justice set up the Central Office for Fighting Online Hate Crime (Zentralstelle zur Bekämpfung von Hasskriminalität im Internet; ZHIN) as a specialised prosecutor’s office within the Public Prosecutor’s Office of Göttingen. In 2021, a cooperation agreement was signed between the state government of Lower Saxony and the state media authority to better combat online hate speech and incitement as part of close cooperation.

The aim of the ZHIN is to effectively prosecute persons who express themselves online in a way that violates the applicable German criminal law and who have a highly aggressive presence, use intimidation and pose a threat of criminal offences. This also covers, among other things, acts detrimental to persons belonging to national minorities. This form of hate crime undermines and calls into question not only the general personality rights of the affected individuals, but also political discourse in the democratic and pluralistic social order. In an environment threatened in this way, it is already the case that certain opinions are no longer expressed for fear of reactions or that certain groups of people are withdrawing from social media entirely. However, being able to express one’s own opinion freely, openly and without influence, and to exchange views on it, is an essential pillar of our society, which the ZHIN defends with the means at its disposal. (*Lower Saxony*)

- In exceptional cases of hate crime, the ZHIN conducts the investigations itself. It is also the central point of contact for public prosecutors’ offices and police authorities in Lower Saxony for fundamental and independent issues in this area. (*Lower Saxony*)

- The ZHIN offers victims and witnesses of hate posts an online reporting platform³² with the possibility to file criminal charges online with little effort. Internet users are increasingly taking advantage of this possibility. (**Lower Saxony**)
- On behalf of the Lower Saxony Police Headquarters, the Lower Saxony Criminal Police Office, together with the police headquarters of Osnabrück, has developed a nationwide campaign to tackle hate crime. (**Lower Saxony**)
- In 2022, all social media channels of the Lower Saxony police were informed about hate crime. At the same time, a poster campaign in the cities of Osnabrück, Hannover, Oldenburg, Braunschweig, Lüneburg and Göttingen also raised awareness of the important issue in the offline world. (**Lower Saxony**)
- Since 2017, the central point of contact for cyber crime in the federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia (Zentral- und Ansprechstelle Cybercrime des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen; ZAC NRW) has been running a project titled “Don’t Just Delete – Investigate” (*Verfolgen statt nur löschen*). Project partners are North Rhine-Westphalia’s Criminal Police Office (Landeskriminalamt Nordrhein-Westfalen; LKA NRW), North Rhine-Westphalia’s state media authority and an increasing number of different media companies. Media companies involved in the project can report user posts considered to be criminal offences electronically to the ZAC NRW via a dedicated function on their social media pages or on other networks they offer. If the ZAC NRW suspects a criminal offence, the reports are forwarded to North Rhine-Westphalia’s Criminal Police Office in order to identify the users. The aim is to enable more efficient prosecution of criminal hate speech online. (**North Rhine-Westphalia**)
- Please refer to the comments in sections *D.IV.1.b.* and *D.II.3.b.* (**Rhineland-Palatinate**)
- On 4 January 2021, a central office for fighting online hate crime was set up at the Schleswig-Holstein Public Prosecutor General’s Office. In addition, all local public

³² www.hassanzeigen.de (as at 12 October 2023)

prosecutors' offices of the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein have special departments in the political divisions of the public prosecutors' offices responsible for prosecuting hate crime and right-wing extremist/xenophobic offences. As part of Schleswig-Holstein's State Action Plan to Combat Racism (*Landesaktionsplan gegen Rassismus*), the State Ministry of Justice and Health (Ministerium für Justiz und Gesundheit; MJG SH) supported the project titled "Racism, Antisemitism, Right-Wing Extremism – Strengthening Law Enforcement and Victim Protection" (*Rassismus, Antisemitismus, Rechtsextremismus – Stärkung von Strafverfolgung und Opferschutz*) of the German Institute for Human Rights (Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte; DIMR) as one of three partner states. The project focuses on improving law enforcement and victim protection in the area of racist, antisemitic and right-wing extremist crimes. The DIMR's report titled "Identifying Racist Offences and Taking Action – A Reader for Criminal Courts" (*Rassistische Straftaten erkennen und verhandeln – Ein Reader für die Straffjustiz*) was distributed to the courts and public prosecutors' offices of the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein in 2019. (**Schleswig-Holstein**)

- Schleswig-Holstein's anti-discrimination agency and the representative for the Schleswig-Holstein police advises on individual cases. (**Schleswig-Holstein**)
- Hate speech brought to the attention of the police (through ZMI trials or by other means of reporting) is prosecuted in Thuringia if the incident is classed as punishable under criminal law. Hate speech to the detriment of members of national minorities is not recorded separately. (**Thuringia**)
- Thuringia's Ministry for Migration, Justice and Consumer Protection (Ministerium für Migration, Justiz und Verbraucherschutz; TMMJV), Thuringia's Media Authority (Thüringer Landesmedienanstalt; TLM) and Thuringia's Ministry of the Interior and Local Affairs (Thüringer Ministerium für Inneres und Kommunales; TMIK) are also working together on the project "Don't Just Delete – Investigate. Online Law Enforcement" (*Verfolgen statt nur Löschen – Rechtsdurchsetzung im Internet*). The aim of the project is to provide journalists with the possibility to report hate speech unbureaucratically online, for example. (**Thuringia**)

- Since June 2023, individuals affected by hate speech in Thuringia can contact the counselling centre “elly”. In addition to legal advice or personal risk assessment, “elly” offers psychosocial counselling. The counselling is complemented by a variety of support services. “elly” is part of “ezra”, a counselling service which provides advice to those affected by right-wing extremist, racist and antisemitic violence in Thuringia. (**Thuringia**)
- c. Data, statistics or information to assess the impact of the measures taken**
- Since 1 July 2018, statistics on hate crime have been recorded nationwide, with surveys showing emerging developments and, where necessary, identifying the need for action. (**All federal states / Federal Government**)
 - Since 28 December 2020, within the context of processing police reports, the Bavarian police have also been looking into the removal of relevant content from platform providers in accordance with the Network Enforcement Act. If a relevant post is still online after the statutory time limits (usually 24 hours), a notification is sent to the Federal Office of Justice (Bundesamt für Justiz; BfJ) for examination. In this way, between 28 December 2020 and 31 December 2021, the Bavarian police requested various network operators to delete a total of 363 posts. In monitoring whether the 363 illegal posts that were reported were deleted in a timely manner, the Bavarian police found that, in 125 cases, the posts were not deleted. Between 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2022, the Bavarian police requested various network operators to delete a total of 51 posts. In monitoring whether the 51 illegal posts that were reported were deleted in a timely manner, the Bavarian police found that, in 19 cases, the posts were not deleted. (**Bavaria**)
 - Please refer to the comments in section *D.II.3c*. (**Rhineland-Palatinate**)
 - The State Security Division of the Schleswig-Holstein Criminal Police Office (Landeskriminalamt Schleswig-Holstein; LKA-SH) was informed of the following cases of antigypsyist offences. This is based on reports of the Police Reporting Service – Politically Motivated Crime (KTA-PMK) since 2017.
 - 2017: 0
 - 2018: 3

- 2019: 1
- 2020: 4
- 2021: 9
- 2022: 4 (*Schleswig-Holstein*)
- Thuringia does not collect statistical data on online hate speech against persons belonging to national minorities. Moreover, statistically valid data on the increase or decrease of online hate speech cannot be collected. (*Thuringia*)

4. Law enforcement and respect for human rights

The Advisory Committee calls on the authorities to investigate promptly and in a transparent manner all cases of alleged police misconduct and appropriately sanction discriminatory behaviour, notably against Sinti and Roma. Independent complaint mechanisms should be available. The authorities should furthermore intensify efforts to counter racial stereotypes among the police through systematic training and taking measures to achieve a more diverse police force. (Nos. 134 – 141)

a. Policy and/or legislation implementing the recommendation

- Please refer to the comments in section *D.IV.1.b. (Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community)*
- Following a decision of the state government, on 1 July 2014, the federal state of Lower Saxony set up a complaints office for citizens and police as a support unit within Lower Saxony's Ministry of the Interior and Sport. Please refer to the comments in *section E.IV.4. of Germany's Fifth Report. (Lower Saxony)*
- Since mid-August 2022, this unit has continued its work under the name "Quality and Complaints Management at the Lower Saxony Ministry of the Interior and Sport" (Qualitäts- und Beschwerdemanagement im Niedersächsischen Ministerium für Inneres und Sport; QBM). The unit reports directly to the Ministry's State Secretary. It is responsible for handling complaints related to conduct, for petitions submitted directly or via the Ministry, and for complaints concerning persons which the Ministry has the legal authority to supervise. The office also handles follow-up complaints, that is, complaints about how complaints have been processed at lower-level offices. Members of the public may contact the

complaints office directly regardless of whether their complaint concerns the conduct of a police officer or other administrative staff in the Ministry or its executive agencies. And police officers and other administrative staff may submit complaints to the office as well. The aim is to ensure a low threshold for submitting complaints, which is why no formal rules have been drawn up for submitting complaints. (*Lower Saxony*)

- In their coalition agreement, the governing parties in North Rhine-Westphalia agreed to appoint an independent commissioner for police issues within the state parliament. The details of this plan will be the subject of the relevant legislative procedure. (*North Rhine-Westphalia*)
- With the Rhineland-Palatinate Ombudsman and the representative for the Schleswig-Holstein police, an independent and non-partisan complaints body is available to all citizens to strengthen their position in dealings with the authorities within the framework of the parliamentary scrutiny right of the state parliament. (*Rhineland-Palatinate*)
- Please refer to the comments in *section D.VI. of Germany's Fifth Report*. (*Saarland*)
- In addition, a special unit focusing on right-wing extremism at the Adolf-Bender-Zentrum within Saarland's Centre for Democracy acts as a mobile counselling service, providing advice to individuals and organisations affected by right-wing extremism throughout the federal state of Saarland. This includes advice on how to deal with hate speech and incitement. (*Saarland*)
- On 5 January 2016, the Free State of Saxony set up an independent trust and complaints office for Saxony's police (Unabhängige Vertrauens- und Beschwerdestelle für die Sächsische Polizei), which falls under the remit of Saxony's State Chancellery. The complaints office aims to further strengthen the relationship of trust between the police and Saxony's residents. In this way, concerns relating to police work are brought directly to the attention of the state government. (*Saxony*)

- Since October 2016, there has been a representative for the Schleswig-Holstein police as an independent auxiliary body of the state parliament. The representative handles complaints from citizens and submissions from police officers and can also act on its own initiative (see section 10 et seqq. of Schleswig-Holstein's Act on the Ombudsman and Police Representative (*Bürger- und Polizeibeauftragengesetz Schleswig-Holstein*, BÜPolBG)). (**Schleswig-Holstein**)
- With regard to the request for an independent appeal mechanism, it should be noted that, on 1 December 2017, a trust centre of the Thuringian police was set up within Thuringia's Ministry of the Interior and Local Affairs (Thüringer Ministerium für Inneres und Kommunales; TMIK). Members of the public can contact the police trust centre as directly with their suggestions and problems, regardless of existing hierarchies. In order to strengthen neutrality and to ensure that cases are processed in an independent manner, cases are not assigned to the specialist divisions of the Ministry, but rather there is direct contact to the State Secretary of the Interior. Tasks, organisation and equipment are laid down in the "Instructions for the Trust Centre of the Thuringia Police" (*Dienstanweisung für die Vertrauensstelle der Thüringer Polizei*) of 11 June 2021.³³ (**Thuringia**)
- With regard to the requirement for systematic training for police forces, reference is made to the comments in *section D.IV.1. (Thuringia)*
- For judges and public prosecutors, the German Judicial Academy offers further training on racism in the judiciary and intercultural competence. All staff are also provided with the specific training offered by the state programme *Denk bunt* ("think all the colours of the rainbow") and expert conferences of the Thuringian Ministry for Migration, Justice and Consumer Protection (Thüringer Ministerium für Migration, Justiz und Verbraucherschutz; TMMJV) in cooperation with the Stiftung Gedenkstätten Buchenwald und Mittelbau-Dora foundation, which deal with discrimination, racism and intercultural competence in various ways. (**Thuringia**)

³³ Official Gazette No. 28/2021, p. 1241 et seq.

b. Practical measures and other relevant developments in implementing the recommendation

- The intercultural competence project at the Criminal Investigations Department of the Federal University of Public Administration (Hochschule des Bundes; HS Bund) at the Federal Criminal Police Office (Bundeskriminalamt; BKA) aims to familiarise students of the BKA with the topics of intercultural competence, civic education and professional ethics at the beginning of their studies. The purpose of the training courses is to help students address and have a deeper insight into fundamental and sensitive issues in the field of group-focused enmity. Critical debate, as well as the questioning of certain issues, play an essential role. At the same time, these issues are considered in the police context. In particular, with regard to some incidents which have attracted great attention in recent years and cast doubt on the tolerance of German police culture, the project aims to raise awareness among students from the outset and to show how to recognise and address racist and discriminatory behaviour. The HS Bund aims to cooperate with the authorities at federal and state level. The aim is also for external stakeholders to give students a deeper insight into various issues and make them aware of the urgency behind them. This awareness-raising work is to be made available not only to the staff of the Office but also to the police authorities of the federal states. The aim is to have a modern police force that is prepared for the effects of an increasingly globalised world, enabling them to confront it with tolerance, knowledge and openness. In this context, reference is made to the cooperation agreement between the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma and the BKA. Please refer to the comments in sections *C.I.2.d. and D.IV.1. (Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community)*
- If the departments and institutions of the police in Baden-Württemberg receive information about discriminatory behaviour by police officers, criminal measures and measures under public service law are consistently examined. Criminal offences are examined using all the means provided for by the rule of law and with the involvement of the competent public prosecutor's office. The Baden-Württemberg police have defined uniform criteria throughout the federal

state regarding when investigations should be handed over to other police headquarters or the state criminal police office. The decision is taken by the competent public prosecutor's office. Any disciplinary overlaps are examined in the context of disciplinary proceedings. Discriminatory statements, even those not punishable under criminal law, may also constitute a breach of duty, which usually leads to disciplinary proceedings. Depending on the gravity of the breach of duty, the possibilities for disciplinary action range from reprimand to removal from the police officer's post. The gravity of the breach of duty is therefore central to the imposition of disciplinary measures. If the police officer in question remains a civil servant, measures under personnel law, such as a transfer or secondment to another field of work, may also be taken into consideration. (*Baden-Württemberg*)

- The Baden-Württemberg police continually examine and develop their own culture of leadership, something which is a fundamental task for all (senior staff). State-wide and decentralised approaches, campaigns and other measures form a package that contributes to raising awareness among all staff about respectful and professional behaviour which is in line with the duties of civil servants, in both the professional and the private context. The comprehensive measures to strengthen democratic resilience thus also have a preventive effect on the emergence of possible racist stereotypes. (*Baden-Württemberg*)
- There are a wide range of contact points for different target groups who can be contacted for support, for example for members of communities who experience group-focused enmity, for police officers who detect offensive behaviour within the police service and for independent witnesses. The federal state's public contact points include:
 - The Ombudsman of the federal state
 - The anti-discrimination agency of the federal state of Baden-Württemberg
 - Commissioner of the state government for the fight against antisemitism

- A wide range of anti-discrimination counselling centres, e.g. OFEK Baden-Württemberg, a counselling centre on antisemitic violence and discrimination which also offers a conflict hotline (Beratungsstelle bei antisemitischer Gewalt und Diskriminierung, Konflikt hotline Baden-Württemberg e. V. (*Baden-Württemberg*))
- The Baden-Württemberg police attach great importance to the training of police officers in the field of human rights, including issues such as discrimination, violence against women, minority rights, refugee and asylum law and the rights of victims of crime. (*Baden-Württemberg*)
- A wide range of projects have been initiated and developed with educational partners in order to raise even more awareness of these issues. (*Baden-Württemberg*)
- The pilot project “Strategic sponsorship for democracy and tolerance” (*Strategiepatenschaft für Demokratie und Toleranz*) is also taking place under the patronage of the Competence Centre against Extremism in Baden-Württemberg (konex). The aim is to empower interested police officers to independently initiate projects on democracy support and extremism prevention within their respective police departments and institutions. (*Baden-Württemberg*)
- Within the Bavarian police, it is ensured that police misconduct is consistently and comprehensively sanctioned. Any suspicion, complaint or report made in person or in writing is taken seriously and carefully examined. Since 2013, internal investigations have been conducted centrally by the Bavarian Criminal Police Office (Bayerisches Landeskriminalamt; BLKA). This has made it possible to achieve even more distance from the day-to-day operations and thus to further highlight the neutrality of the investigations. In addition, potential victims can always contact, for example, the Bavarian State Ministry of the Interior, Sport and Integration (Staatsministerium des Innern, für Sport und Integration; STMI), the Petitions Committee of the Bavarian state parliament or, for example, the Ombudsman of the Bavarian state government.

The control instruments provided for in the rule of law ensure effective and transparent processing of complaints. These instruments include administrative

and expert supervision; the handling of complaints and disciplinary matters by legal administrative officers; investigations into offences by specialised criminal police departments or the central units for internal investigations; the examination of the facts of the case by public prosecutors' offices and independent courts; monitoring by the State Ministry of the Interior, the parliament and the public. Even if there are no criminal offences, the misconduct of police officers can be subject to disciplinary sanctions. (**Bavaria**)

- In Brandenburg, the Police Commissioner offers a single point of contact for police officers and citizens alike. The aim is to give police officers the opportunity to identify possible grievances and mistakes through an external and independent body without fear of sanctions or professional disadvantages. The overall objective in establishing this post is to help safeguard procedures and behaviour under rule of law within the police, thus further contributing to a community-based police force. Brandenburg's Act on the Police Commissioner (*Brandenburgisches Polizeibeauftragengesetz, BbgPBG*) entered into force on 20 December 2022. (**Brandenburg**)
- In the course of further training, events are organised in Brandenburg on how to deal with people from different ethnic or cultural backgrounds. For example, in 2021, the seminar on "(Subconscious) prejudices, racism and democratic resilience" (*(unbewusste) Vorurteile, Rassismus und Demokratische Resilienz*) was designed together with the Brandenburg Criminal Police Office (Landeskriminalamt Brandenburg; LKA BB), giving participants the chance to critically address the various forms of group-focused enmity in the police, society and in the private sphere. This seminar is accessible to all officers of the Brandenburg police and can be adapted at any time in order to respond to current events. (**Brandenburg**)
- Since 2021, Bremen has had an independent Police and Fire Brigade Commissioner, whose tasks include, among other things, identifying errors and misconduct in individual cases indicating a violation of the rule of law or non-discrimi-

nation, as well as corresponding structural deficiencies and problematic developments, and seeking guidance and recommendations to ensure that these are corrected and not repeated. (*Bremen*)

- The fight against discriminatory conduct in criminal proceedings remains a very high priority in Bremen, following the statements in Germany's Fifth Report on the Framework Convention. In 2020, a post for a policy officer for diversity and anti-discrimination was established within the Bremen police. Among other things, the policy officer has initiated numerous internal group discussions with police officers on diversity and anti-discrimination in police life, has set up an internal advisory and reporting structure for the authorities concerned, has provided further training on the subject, has carried out a virtual reality project to raise awareness in the context of possible prejudiced selection of people during identification measures and has created instructions for dealing with discrimination within the Bremen police. This entered into force in April 2023. (*Bremen*)
- Police training in Bremen addresses and reflects on the issue of anti-racism and diversity in very different contexts from the beginning of degree programmes. It is important to create a learning context that empowers prospective police officers to identify and analyse (problematic) developments in society in their social and legal dimensions in order to respond with police resources and methods according to the rule of law. The teaching content involves addressing political and religious extremism in the basic course of studies, addressing the causes, motives and manifestations of hate crime in the context of antisemitism and racism, looking at internationality and interculturality, and discussing typical Bremen-specific conflict situations and the conflict potential of prejudice-motivated crime and discrimination. In addition to the educational content described above, which is mandatory for all students, compulsory elective modules are selected in the main course of studies. The compulsory elective module "Yad Vashem", which took place for the first time in the 2019/20 winter semester and has since been offered once a year, is an important event in the university's self-understanding and police training. In addition to selected lectures and discussion-based events

on the historical, cultural, social and legal dimensions of antisemitism, the module regularly includes a trip to Berlin, including visits to the Jewish Museum and the Holocaust Memorial, as well as a guided tour of the Bergen-Belsen Memorial. The module culminates in a one-week trip to Israel, including a visit to the Yad Vashem World Holocaust Remembrance Center. In addition, since 2019, the Bremen University of Public Administration (Hochschule für Öffentliche Verwaltung; HfÖV) provides compulsory elective modules up to twice a year on, among other things, diversity and anti-discrimination within and outside the police and/or diversity, prejudice and understanding. (**Bremen**)

- On the basis of a strategy paper on the sustainable prevention of right-wing extremist tendencies within the police authorities, the Senator for the Interior of Bremen has drawn up an 11-point plan to strengthen democratic resilience and prevent extremist tendencies in the police. In this context, in 2021, the HfÖV set up an inter-agency working group at the HfÖV on police and the democratic rule of law (*AK Polizei im demokratischen Rechtsstaat*), which deals, among other things, with the development, implementation and evaluation of democratically sensitive training formats. The training programme of the police forces of the federal state of Bremen includes a separate set of events on specific issues within the topic of diversity, anti-discrimination and democratic resilience. In addition, the issue is now firmly anchored in all training measures for senior staff. (**Bremen**)
- Suspicions of discriminatory behaviour by Hamburg police officers are investigated by the office for complaints management and disciplinary matters (Beschwerdemanagement und Disziplinarangelegenheiten; BMDA). The aim is to examine criticisms of police action in a transparent manner and to raise awareness. Particular attention is paid to racist or discriminatory misconduct, as it is often the case that there are breaches of neutrality or non-compliance with the principle of equal treatment. Depending on the behaviour to be investigated, it can lead to disciplinary sanctions or to a low-threshold complaints procedure, e.g. in further training, in order to learn how to better handle the situation in fu-

ture. The investigation of racist or discriminatory complaints is, in principle, carried out by external, non-police staff of the BMDA; the Hamburg Parliament is informed separately in the annual activity report (e.g. caseload, measures taken, etc.). (*Hamburg*)

- The decree “*Schutz vor der Verwendung diskriminierender Minderheitenkennzeichnungen durch Beschäftigte von Polizeibehörden*” (Protection Against the Use of Discriminatory Terms for Minorities by Police Officers) of 13 September 2019 (Federal Gazette of 30 September 2019, p. 914) laid down, among other things, the following guiding principles:

The members of the Hesse police

- see the prohibition of discrimination not only as a legal requirement which is to be respected, but, based on the way they see themselves and with a view to historical responsibility, they are also obliged to protect minorities through their actions and behaviour;
- have zero tolerance for stigmatisation, categorisation or generalised designation of people; they do not use alternative designations or terms, regardless of whether they are objectively or subjectively suited to stigmatise, denigrate or discriminate against a person, an ethnicity, a nationality or a minority;
- instead use differentiated and detailed descriptions in the professional context, in particular in connection with searches, physical descriptions and crime descriptions or the description of a sequence of events; the form and contents of internal and external police communication shall not discriminate or foster prejudices;
- avoid using any terms which third parties might misuse or interpret to degrade people, also in internal communication;
- indicate membership of a minority in internal and external reports only if this is required to understand the case or to establish a factual relationship; they shall also comply with the rules governing the provision of information to the media;

- are aware of their responsibilities in dealing with an individual's personality rights vis-à-vis the media and the press. In order to also protect national minorities against discrimination in this context, publications and appeals to the public may not refer to membership of a national minority. (*Hesse*)
- Education and training of the Hesse police:
 - Training courses in police training include:
 - "Diversity management" for senior staff
 - Managing diversity for junior staff
 - Civic education for junior staff
 - Intercultural and social skills (target group: junior and senior staff)
 - Police training courses currently in preparation:
 - Training concepts by external providers on strengthening democracy, diversity, extremism
 - Exchange concepts with civil society
 - Training intercultural competence multipliers of the authorities in the field diversity to provide appropriate training for all staff (*Hesse*)
- In the context of civic education, an exhibition titled "Order and Destruction – The Police in the Nazi State" (*Ordnung und Vernichtung – Polizei im NS-Staat*) was shown in Hesse from September 2020 to February 2021. With the help of retractable banners, the role and history of the police in the Nazi regime was depicted in four locations of the University of Public Management and Security (Hochschule für öffentliches Management und Sicherheit; HöMS). Students and interested staff were given the opportunity to visit the exhibition in order to be able to critically look at the past of the German police. The retractable banners are the 17 core panels from the exhibition "Order and Destruction – The Police in the Nazi State", which the German Police University (Deutsche Hochschule der Polizei; DHPol) developed in cooperation with the German Historical Museum in Berlin (Deutsches Historisches Museum Berlin). The boards were made available

to Hesse on a loan basis by the Police Museum (Polizeimuseum) of the Police Academy of Lower Saxony (Polizeiakademie Niedersachsen). The exhibition also addressed the persecution of Sinti and Roma and their fate under the Nazi regime, as well as the role of the police. (*Hesse*)

- The Hessian police consistently advocates that the protection of minorities against discrimination is also safeguarded in the context of police data collection and data exchange. The aforementioned decree and the training measures are intended to take account of the particular sensitivity required for this issue in the police authorities.

These examples of measures to combat discrimination and prejudice are intended to demonstrate that the Hessian police are aware of their responsibilities in dealing with minorities. (*Hesse*)

- Radicalisation, extremism and racism fall under the fields of political science and intercultural communication, and have always played an important role in the basic training, degree programmes and further training of the Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania police. The dissemination of knowledge and skills on fundamental and human rights, a human rights-based attitude and the promotion of intercultural awareness are key elements of training.

Trainees learn how to promote human rights and how to recognise and counter racist and (right-wing) extremist positions. They deepen the values of our Basic Law and internalise that every human being's individual right to values and respect, regardless of certain (assumed) characteristics, is irrevocable.

In addition, current social developments and issues influence the content of the respective degree programmes and basic/further training.

As a general rule, there is an obligation to be present ("mandatory participation") in the degree and training courses due to the trainees' and students' special status as civil servants subject to revocation ("*Beamte auf Widerruf*"). However, during their studies, students have the opportunity to attend compulsory elective modules to deepen their knowledge of certain subjects according to their interests. On an annual basis, compulsory elective modules are offered on political

and religious extremism and intercultural communication. Mandatory participation remains unaffected by this. (*Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania*)

- The Police Department of the University of Applied Sciences for Police and Justice of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania (Fachhochschule für Verwaltung, Polizei und Rechtspflege Mecklenburg-Vorpommern; FHöVPR M-V) offers recurrent further training courses, seminars and workshops on civic education and intercultural competence. Among other things, *Fachtag: Radikal*, a one-day event on radicalisation at the university, offers a platform for dialogue on the latest findings in the field of research and professional experiences. (*Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania*)
- A pluralistic understanding of democracy by the Lower Saxony police is an important part of the police's own strategy for 2027. It sets out the following specific objective:

“WE preserve our liberal and democratic identity and strengthen our resilience to phenomena that threaten democracy”. This objective is achieved by implementing the following measures:

 - Identification with the liberal and democratic basic order is a requirement for recruitment to the police service (checked as part of the application)
 - Democracy skills/competence plays a key role in the degree programme through various modules on the topic
 - Centralised and decentralised training is offered on the issue
 - The share of police officers from immigrant backgrounds is being increased
 - The educational initiative “Police Protection for Democracy” (*Polizeischutz für die Demokratie*) was launched
 - Cooperation and collaborations with external partners (to date, 138 collaborations with external stakeholders have taken place)
 - Training concepts are being continuously implemented and developed
 - The issue of science and research is addressed (*Lower Saxony*)

- The security authorities of North Rhine-Westphalia investigate any suspicions of possible misconduct by police officers. In this way, all forms of right-wing extremism, racism and hostility are consistently scrutinised by the security authorities, both under public service law and criminal law. Any violation of public service law or criminal law is not tolerated, is consistently prosecuted and usually leads to dismissal of trainee police officers. Police officers with life tenure may also be removed from service in the context of disciplinary proceedings or are dismissed above a certain level of punishment. (*North Rhine-Westphalia*)
- However, there are already different procedures and contact points for complaints against police behaviour in North Rhine-Westphalia:

- Possibilities for the general public:

As regards complaints from the general public about the behaviour of police officers, there is a quality system for complaints management in North Rhine-Westphalia, which is constantly being developed. It provides for an complaints office in each police authority. The basis for the handling of complaints by the North Rhine-Westphalia police is the “Framework for handling complaints and submissions to the police” (*Rahmenvorgaben zur Bearbeitung von Beschwerden und Eingaben bei der Polizei*). An annual complaints report also provides transparency on the specific number of complaints.

If there is suspicion that a police officer has committed a criminal offence, the police investigation is conducted by another police authority for reasons of objectivity. The supervision of these investigations always lies with the public prosecutor’s office, which is obliged to complete objectivity and neutrality in accordance with the Code of Criminal Procedure (*Strafprozessordnung, StPO*).

- Possibilities for staff of the North Rhine-Westphalia police:

If members of the police are affected by alleged misconduct by their colleagues, it is possible at any time to contact the Police Commissioner directly with suggestions, objections and information, without having to go

through official hierarchies. The Police Commissioner was deliberately appointed by the state government as an independent point of contact for the staff of the North Rhine-Westphalia police. The Commissioner is not bound by directions and acts at their professional discretion solely on the basis of their own decision. In organisational terms, the office of the Police Commissioner falls under the remit of the State Ministry of the Interior of North Rhine-Westphalia (Ministerium des Innern des Landes NRW; IM NRW).

The Commissioner regularly reports on their extensive work in writing to the members of the state parliament. (*North Rhine-Westphalia*)

- Strategies to combat group-focused enmity in the North Rhine-Westphalia police, including racism and antisemitism, are addressed and communicated intensively and extensively as part of the basic and further training of the North Rhine-Westphalia police and beyond. (*North Rhine-Westphalia*)
- Any suspicion of misconduct on the part of staff of the Rhineland-Palatinate police is investigated immediately and carefully. A neutral organisational unit or office for internal investigations is set up in each of the five regional police headquarters, in particular for conduct with implications under criminal law. (*Rhineland-Palatinate*)
- For the measures carried out under the responsibility of the Rhineland-Palatinate police, the Ministry of the Interior and Sport (Ministerium des Innern und für Sport) has not been made aware of any discriminatory misconduct against Sinti and Roma during the reporting period. (*Rhineland-Palatinate*)
- For training, please refer to the comments in section *D.IV.1.b.* (*Rhineland-Palatinate*)
- Initiative of Saxony's police: "United Against Online Hate Speech" (*Gemeinsam gegen Hass im Netz*)

The aim is to record hate speech and extremist online content as quickly as possible, to enable individuals to file direct and straightforward police reports online and to initiate efficient prosecution by rapidly securing evidence-relevant data. Content deemed to be punishable under criminal law can be reported to police via the *Onlinewache*.

Anyone who encounters online hate speech, incitement or threats may have concerns about providing their personal data. Nevertheless, in order to help combat online hate speech, Saxony's police refers to national reporting offices, with the possibility of receiving relevant information confidentially and anonymously:

- Complaints office of "jugendschutz.net" for reporting online hate speech: "jugendschutz.net" is part of the nationwide competence network against online hate speech and performs statutory tasks within the meaning of the Protection of Young Persons Act (*Jugendschutzgesetz*, JuSchG).
- Reporting office for discriminatory incidents or observations at the Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency – contact form:
The Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency operates on the basis of the General Equal Treatment Act (*Allgemeines Gleichbehandlungsgesetz*; AGG). Many social network operators have put in place extensive arrangements to check reports of illegal content from users and to delete this content accordingly. In cases where an operator does not respond to these complaints, a report may be filed with the Federal Office of Justice.
- Reference is also made to Saxony's Centre for Democracy, which acts as a central coordinating body and brings together all governmental and non-governmental stakeholders involved in strengthening democracy and combating extremist and hostile tendencies. For example, a counselling network has been set up in Saxony, offering quick and professional counselling for affected individuals as well as prevention measures in order to adequately tackle online hate speech or conflicts with a right-wing extremist, antisemitic, antigypsyist, racist or hostile background.
(*Saxony*)
- Within the state police, Schleswig-Holstein has added to existing measures by setting up a contact point with anti-racism and values officers who work directly with the *Landespolizeidirektor* (highest-ranking uniformed police officer in the Schleswig-Holstein police force). With the establishment of the central contact

point, the Schleswig-Holstein police are responsible for making values and the issues of anti-racism and democracy promotion present within the state police and for dealing with these proactively. The contact point is available to the general public, police staff and all institutions and organisations active in the field of anti-racism and values work for all questions and concerns related to policing. In addition, the contact point is active in the field of basic and further training for police officers. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)

- By setting up the central contact point with anti-racism and values officers within the Schleswig-Holstein police, the Schleswig-Holstein Police Commissioner hopes to standardise relevant internal training. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)

c. Data, statistics or information to assess the impact of the measures taken

- Through a Europe-wide competitive tendering process, the Federal Criminal Police Office awarded a research project on the importance of work-related values and constitutional fundamental values in the Federal Criminal Police Office's day-to-day work to the Fraunhofer Institute for Industrial Engineering (Fraunhofer-Institut für Arbeitswirtschaft und Organisation; IAO) Through qualitative interviews and a quantitative online survey, the Federal Criminal Police Office's staff are to be asked what values are important for staff in the performance of their various tasks, whether these values can be fully implemented in all areas and, if so, what obstacles exist in organising everyday working life in a value-oriented manner. The final report on the results, which also serve as a basis for the development of a set of values, was published on 31 August 2023.³⁴ The project also covers the understanding of values and the development of this understanding in the case of young professionals. To this end, 40 prospective detective chief inspectors will provide information on their values through qualitative interviews over a seven-year period. The aim is for them understand value-related development processes during their studies and during the first years of their careers.

³⁴ https://www.bka.de/DE/Presse/Listenseite_Pressemitteilungen/2023/Presse2023/230831_PM_WerteimBKA.html, (as at 10 October 2023)

The final report of this sub-study is expected by the end of 2029. (***Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community***)

- The Federal Criminal Police Office participates with its own questionnaire module in the national police study conducted by the German Police University (Deutsche Hochschule der Polizei; DHPol), which examines the motivation, attitudes and violence in the daily working lives of German police officers (MEG-AVO). A key objective of the study is to maintain and further develop existing measures to ensure zero tolerance for racism in the police force. In January 2022, all staff of the Federal Criminal Police Office were invited to participate in an online survey. The Federal Criminal Police Office's specific part of the questions addresses, among other things, the perception, acceptance and assessment of diversity among Federal Criminal Police Office staff and replicates selected questions from the staff survey on cultural diversity and equal opportunities in the federal administration (CuCS 2019). The results of the online survey are not expected to be available until 2024, as, in addition to further evaluations, the current plan for the project is to repeat the online survey in the final quarter of 2023. On the basis of the findings, measures and recommendations for action which have a positive impact on the perception and implementation of diversity within the Federal Criminal Police Office are to be drawn up. In this way, the findings can be used to improve basic and further training and to provide new impetus for staff development in the Federal Criminal Police Office. In addition, a new training series on the subject of diversity in teams is currently being developed. This series is aimed at the special departments within the Federal Criminal Police Office and will be tailored to their needs. Among other things, this measure addresses mechanisms of discrimination, racism and the syndrome of group-focused enmity. The course is based on studies, analyses, strategy papers and publications of civil society organisations (including the German Institute for Human Rights). (***Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community***)
- As early as 2016, an advertising campaign titled "Diversity Is Our Strength" (*Viel-falt ist unsere Stärke*) was launched in Hesse's police force. As part of this cam-

paign, successive promotional activities were implemented with the aim of increasing the diversity of people within Hesse's police force. The advertising slogan "Diversity Is Our Strength" has been implemented in numerous promotional activities (e.g. cinema advertising, print media, poster advertising, online advertising, social media, information vans). (*Hesse*)

- At the end of 2018, the Hesse police force's well-known promotional slogan "The Future Is Blue" (*Mit Blaulicht in die Zukunft*) was updated. This update also takes due account of the diversity within Hesse's police force in a visual manner and has been taken into account in all promotional activities. (*Hesse*)
- Students with an immigrant background regularly help recruit young talents for the Hesse police's Centre for Young Talent Management (Zentrum für Nachwuchsmanagement) at information events and job fairs. The promotional activities are run on an annual basis and new promotional activities to increase the number of candidates, including those with an immigrant background, are initiated regularly. According to the definition in section 2 (3) of the Hesse civil service careers ordinance (*Hessische Laufbahnverordnung, LbV HE*), the qualifications of a civil servant in Hesse include, among other things, intercultural competence. (*Hesse*)
- All candidates for the police service in Hesse take part in an aptitude selection procedure (EAV). The criterion of intercultural competence is checked as part of the communicative test. The answers to questions about intercultural experiences and how to deal with actual or fictitious situations in the aptitude selection procedure indicate immediately whether traits and skills can be translated into interculturally competent actions. A scale allows for an independent assessment of candidates' answers. (*Hesse*)
- Tolerance and interculturality are thus reflected in the recruitment of young talents and in the aptitude selection procedure of the Hesse police. (*Hesse*)
- The work of the Quality and Complaints Management at the Lower Saxony Ministry of the Interior and Sport (Qualitäts- und Beschwerdemanagement im Niedersächsischen Ministerium für Inneres und Sport; QBM) is evaluated annually and the results are published. (*Lower Saxony*)

- The police authorities of North Rhine-Westphalia reported a total of 3,941 complaints in around 4,951,552 police operations for the 2021 reporting year. This means that, statistically, one complaint was made for every 1,242 police operation in 2021.

As the complaints reports of recent years have shown, around 75 per cent of complaints are unfounded.

Compared to the previous year, the number of complaints decreased by around 12.8 per cent. (*North Rhine-Westphalia*)

I. Article 9

1. National minorities in TV and radio broadcasting

The Advisory Committee calls on the authorities to increase the duration and frequency of programming in minority languages particularly in Danish and North Frisian, including through supporting the production of radio and television content in minority languages by professional journalists. (Nos. 142 – 154 and 155)

As a matter of principle, it should be pointed out that, on the basis of the freedom of broadcasting and the freedom of the press enshrined in the German Constitution, governmental influence over such content by the Federal Government and the federal states is not permitted.

a. Policy and/or legislation implementing the recommendation

- Please refer to the comments in section *D.IV.2.a. (Berlin, Brandenburg)*
- Section 14 of the Saxon Sorbs Act (*Sächsisches Sorbengesetz, SächsSorbG*) stipulates that the Sorbian language is to be adequately reflected in the media. Under section 4 (1) of the MDR Interstate Treaty, the broadcaster Mitteldeutscher Rundfunk (MDR) is obliged to produce regionally specific programmes of a regionally specific character. This regional specificity includes the Sorbian language and culture. (*Saxony*)
- The amended NDR Interstate Treaty, which entered into force on 1 September 2021, included wording that calls on the regional broadcaster Norddeutscher Rundfunk (NDR) to take regional and minority languages into account regularly and appropriately in its broadcasting. This progress is based on a decision of the state parliament of 14 October 2016 in which the state government of Schleswig-Holstein is requested, among other things, to work towards including a provision which ensures that television and radio broadcasts in recognised minority and regional languages are properly taken into account in the next version of the NDR Interstate Treaty. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)
- In addition, the Interstate Media Treaty between Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein (*Medienstaatsvertrag Hamburg/Schleswig-Holstein, MStV HSH*) stipulates

that local radio programmes must take due account of the regional and minority languages of the respective region (section 28 (a)). Following the establishment of the Media Council of the Media Authority for Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein (Medienanstalt Hamburg Schleswig-Holstein; MA HSH) in 2022, on 4 September 2023, the Minorities Commissioner launched a dialogue with the Chair of the Media Council on the presentation of national minorities in the media. The Media Authority for Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein has shown willingness to develop new formats to promote the presence of regional and minority languages and the perspectives of minorities and ethnic groups in broadcasting media. The plan is to continue exchanges and information on the aspects of broadcasting media relating to minorities and, in particular, on the avoidance of stereotypes and prejudices against Sinti and Roma. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)

- The state government regularly encourages offering more programmes in and about regional and minority languages in the media. The state missions promote this in the bodies of broadcasters NDR, ZDF and Deutschlandradio. The aim is to improve the presence of regional or minority languages in radio and television reporting. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)

b. Practical measures and other relevant developments in implementing the recommendation

- The broadcaster Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg (rbb) broadcasts a one-hour radio programme in Lower Sorbian from Monday to Friday, which is repeated in the evening. It lasts 90 minutes on Sundays and public holidays. In addition, the Upper Sorbian programmes of Mitteldeutscher Rundfunk (MDR) are taken over. A 30-minute television programme in Lower Sorbian titled “*Łužyca*” is shown every month, either as a magazine programme or a single-subject film production. The broadcaster rbb also produces various genres of music in the Lower Sorbian language. The services are also available online on the rbb websites, through live streaming, the media library and also in a special Sorbian app from rbb. In recent years, particular focus has been placed on developing online channels in order to facilitate access to content. However, the basic structure of services has hardly changed. (*Brandenburg*)

- The duration and frequency of programmes in minority languages are described on the basis of information provided by the regional broadcaster Norddeutscher Rundfunk (NDR).

There has been no increase when it comes to NDR television broadcasting. However, the duration and frequency have remained stable at programme level. NDR has its own editorial department for Low German, which is located in Schleswig-Holstein's broadcasting centre. The department coordinates the services offered by NDR in Low German. These include numerous fixed formats, regular broadcasting slots and also off-air events. The editorial department in Kiel is also responsible for services in minority languages.

All NDR services in regional and minority languages are researched and produced without exception by professional NDR journalists. Hamburg's radio and television broadcasting offers various services in the Low German language.

In addition, NDR offers an online portal dedicated to the Low German language. The recent reformulation of the NDR Interstate Treaty included an extension of the programming mandate in the field of regional and minority languages. NDR has since developed additional services, with a deliberate focus on non-linear formats. In these ways, the new services will also reach younger audiences. This is in line with the desire of the respective minorities to also bring new generations into contact with regional and minority languages. (*Hamburg*)

- On the basis of the constitutional requirement of the media independence of broadcasters, the state of Hesse does not have the possibility to influence the design or selection of programmes. Instead, the state of Hesse has informed the public service broadcaster Hessischer Rundfunk (HR) about Germany's obligations and initiated a dialogue between HR and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma, Landesverband Hessen e. V.), while respecting the constitutional principle of government non-intervention in broadcasting. (*Hesse*)
- Dialogue between the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma and the state public service broadcaster (Landesrundfunkanstalt) continues to be promoted. According to our information, representatives of the Sinti and Roma have still not

asked the state public service broadcaster for any programming in the Romani language. (*Hesse*)

- The regional broadcaster Norddeutscher Rundfunk (NDR) of the broadcasting centre for Lower Saxony stated that it has broadcast the following content relating to the Sater Frisian language: “*Hallo Niedersachsen – op Platt, Marron Curtis Fort – Kämpfer für Saterfriesisch*”, on 29 October 2017, 4:15 minutes. (*Lower Saxony*)
- For many years, the local studio of the Ems-Vechte-Welle radio station in Saterland, Lower Saxony, has broadcast the “*Middeeges*” programme in Sater Frisian (and Low German) twice a month/fortnightly on Sunday between 11:03 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. (with a break for the news at midday). This programme will remain a part of the station’s schedule in future. (*Lower Saxony*)
- Both Mitteldeutscher Rundfunk (MDR) and Rundfunk Berlin Brandenburg (rbb) provide Sorbian-language television programmes. Once a month, MDR’s broadcasting centre for Saxony produces the 30-minute programme “*Wuhladko*” on Sorbian topics in the Upper Sorbian language. The programme is broadcast on MDR and also airs twice on rbb. The programme is also available for live streaming or viewing on demand in the media library of the MDR website. Among other things, this allows young Sorbs living in other parts of Germany – or anywhere else in the world – to keep up with current events at home. In addition, the MDR programme “*MDR SACHSENSPIEGEL*” addresses topics of interest throughout the state of Saxony which are also relevant in the Sorbian areas. (*Saxony*)
- Thanks to its regional studio “*Serbski Rozhlós*” (Sorbian broadcasting) in Bautzen, East Saxony, the radio station MDR SACHSEN is always present in the Sorbian-speaking region of Oberlausitz. Also, a reporter for “*MDR SACHSENSPIEGEL*” covers eastern Saxony and reports on issues of interest in this region. (*Saxony*)
- The programme “*Unser Sandmännchen*” airs every Sunday on all terrestrial MDR stations (analogue and digital) with a choice between Sorbian- and German-language broadcasts. MDR’s Sorbian programmes are also available for live streaming or viewing on demand in the media library of the MDR website. (*Saxony*)

- In terms of radio, the radio service of MDR SACHSEN in the Upper Sorbian language from the regional studio in Bautzen/Budyšin and the radio service of rbb in the Lower Sorbian language from the regional studio Cottbus/Chóšebuz are available. (**Brandenburg, Saxony**)
- In this respect, MDR SACHSEN – SERBSKI ROZHŁÓS broadcasts a total of 25.5 hours per week in the Upper Sorbian language from the regional studio in Bautzen/Budyšin. In all of Europe, this is the only programme of this size dedicated to young people in the mother tongue of an ethnic group. The “MDR Serbja” app bundles all the Sorbian-language services of MDR for mobile use. The same applies to rbb and its “rbb serbski” app. Updates are also shared daily by MDR via its own Sorbian Facebook and/or Instagram services. (**Saxony**)
- In Schleswig-Holstein, various initiatives were developed during the 19th parliamentary term with the support of the Minorities Commissioner to raise awareness among media professionals about the importance of regular and diverse media presence of regional and minority languages for the speakers of these languages. Further progress has been made in the area of media promotion in cooperation with media partners and language groups: e.g. with a wide range of traineeships offered by NDR to young people with media affinity from minorities and minority language groups. Thanks to advanced training for freelancers, especially those in North Frisia and Flensburg, programmes in Frisian (with subtitles) have been broadcast. (**Schleswig-Holstein**)
- For the first time in April 2021, NDR also offered regional traineeships in the four broadcasting centres. The aim is for trainees to gain deeper knowledge of and affiliation to the federal state. The traineeships also target persons belonging to minorities. (**Schleswig-Holstein**)
- For the 10th anniversary of the radio programme “*Friisk Funk*” in Föhr, the state government of Schleswig-Holstein has worked to safeguard its work. “*Friisk Funk*” was made possible until 2020 by means of financing through a triangular cooperation between the public institution Offener Kanal Schleswig-Holstein, the Ferring Foundation and the association Fräsche Rädj – Friesenrat/Section North e. V. The chair of the Friesenstiftung Foundation Board, who is also the

head of the State Chancellery, signed a letter of intent with the chair of the Ferring Foundation Executive Board for funding over a five-year period starting in 2021 onwards by the Friesenstiftung/Friisk Stifting. The Foundation Board of the Friesenstiftung/Friisk Stifting decided at its second meeting on 21 January 2021 to further promote the project. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)

- In addition, the state government of Schleswig-Holstein supports institutions and associations of language groups by promoting projects involving the use of modern media, such as making services more accessible to members of the minorities and making them more attractive. One example of this is a bilingual German-Danish film project for the 2020 anniversary year with funding from the State Ministry of Education and the Film Fund Hamburg Schleswig-Holstein. The Friesenstiftung also promoted a multilingual film in regional and minority languages titled “*Der Krug an der Wiedau*”. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)
- In 2022, the children’s channel of public broadcasters ARD and ZDF, KiKA, also became aware of the Frisian ethnic group and decided to dub 26 episodes of a popular children’s series (“*KiKANiNCHEN*”) into the Frisian language. This project was implemented together with the Ferring Foundation in Föhr. The Frisian episodes premiered on 20 March 2023 and have since also been available online on the programme’s website and on the channel’s app. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)

The Advisory Committee encourages the authorities to follow-up to the implementation of the licencing agreement with the private channel Antenne Sylt. (Nos. 153 and 156)

c. Practical measures and other relevant developments in implementing the recommendation

- The competent supervisory authority, the Media Authority for Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein (Medienanstalt Hamburg Schleswig-Holstein; MA HSH), was informed by the state government of the matter raised by the Advisory Committee. Media Authority for Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein informed the state government that, in response to a programming complaint, it had requested information from the broadcaster of the radio programme “*Antenne Sylt*” in October 2020 regarding the inclusion of the Frisian language in the station’s program-

ming and had carried out an exemplary programme observation. The observation revealed that the language course “*Friesisch leichtgemacht*” (Frisian for beginners) was aired three times a week between 21 and 28 October 2020. From 29 October 2020, the programme was broadcast twice a day, which corresponds to the frequency of broadcasting provided for in the application for authorisation. In the authorisation issued on 7 December 2018, no further requirements were set for “adequate representation” of regional and minority languages. There was therefore no need to take supervisory measures. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)

2. Representation of national minorities in media regulatory bodies

The Advisory Committee strongly encourages the authorities to support demands for better representation of persons belonging to national minorities in media regulatory bodies, with due regard for the independence and the cultural diversity of the bodies concerned. (Nos. 157 – 162)

For *Baden-Württemberg*, please refer to the *comments in section D.VII. of Germany’s Fifth Report*.

The *Free Hanseatic City of Bremen* refers to the composition of committees in the field of media regulation, which shows that cultural diversity is taken into account: The Broadcasting Council of Radio Bremen and the Media Council of the Bremen State Media Authority include, among others, a member of each of the following communities: Muslims, Alevi, Council for Integration, Bunnsraat för Nedderdüütsch (Federal Council for Low German).

In the absence of representation for German Sinti and Roma in the *Free State of Thuringia*, so far no opportunity for representation by committee has arisen.

a. Policy and/or legislation implementing the recommendation

- The composition of the NDR Broadcasting Council is set out in section 18 (1) of the NDR Interstate Treaty (*NDR-Staatsvertrag*, NDR-StV). The contracting federal states are Lower Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein, Hamburg and Mecklenburg-West-

ern Pomerania. The Broadcasting Council is responsible for representing the interests of the general public in the field of public service broadcasting. The members of the Broadcasting Council represent the relevant social forces in the broadcasting area. In this context, organised social associations or similar associations are most likely to ensure that the interests of the general public in the aforementioned federal states are represented on an interregional and diverse basis, so as to ensure a variety of opinion in the broadcasting sector that is, to the greatest extent possible, independent of public authorities.

A State Broadcasting Council is set up at each NDR-broadcasting centre. It is composed of the members of the respective federal state on the Broadcasting Council. The tasks of the State Broadcasting Councils correspond to those of the Broadcasting Council. Despite the competences of the State Broadcasting Councils, the overall responsibility of the Broadcasting Council remains unaffected. (**Hamburg, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Lower Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein**)

- In the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein, pursuant to section 42 (2) of the Interstate Media Treaty for Hamburg/Schleswig-Holstein (*Medienstaatsvertrag Hamburg/Schleswig-Holstein*, MStV HSH), any socially relevant group, organisation or association based in Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein, which automatically includes the representatives of the minority languages, has the right to nominate candidates for election to the voluntary media supervisory authority (the Media Council) of the Media Authority for Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein, the supervisory authority for private broadcasters in Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein. Neither the Media Authority for Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein nor the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg can influence the extent to which these groups actually make use of this nomination right. (**Hamburg**)
- According to section 18 (1) (13), the Landesheimatverband Mecklenburg-Vorpommern e. V. is represented by one vote on the Broadcasting Council. The representation of another member of an association dedicated to local/regional traditions is not provided for in the Interstate Treaty. The State Broadcasting Council of Lower Saxony includes only the members of the Broadcasting Council from Lower Saxony (section 24 (1) of the NDR Interstate Treaty). The appointment of

a representative from regional languages to the Broadcasting Council of Lower Saxony would therefore require a corresponding amendment to the NDR Interstate Treaty, which would have to be approved by all four federal states party to the Treaty. (**Lower Saxony**)

- As it is not likely that another person will be seconded from the same area for the aforementioned reason, only an exchange with the federal state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania would be possible. However, this would require an amendment to the Interstate Treaty. Before the federal states consider such a laborious procedure, the interest groups in the federal states concerned would first have to agree on whether such an exchange would actually be desirable. The national minority of Sater Frisians is not yet aware of such a concern. (**Lower Saxony**)
- For private broadcasting in Lower Saxony, the following applies:
Pursuant to section 15 (2) of the Lower Saxony Media Act (*Niedersächsisches Mediengesetz*, NMedienG), the events of political, economic, social and cultural life in Lower Saxony are to be presented in full radio programmes in an authentic manner on a daily basis. The regional or minority languages used in the area covered by the programme are to be adequately reflected in the programme.
Within the scope of the tasks of the non-commercial broadcasting service pursuant to section 25 (3) sentence 1 no. 1, it must supplement the local and regional reporting as well as the cultural offering in the area of covered by the service determined in line with section 26 (1) sentence 1. According to sentence 2, the task referred to in sentence 1 no. 1 regarding supplementing the cultural offering in the area covered by the service also includes the use of the regional or minority languages used in the area covered by the service. (**Lower Saxony**)
- In North Rhine-Westphalia, since December 2021, the association Verein Deutscher Sinti e. V. Minden has seconded a representative to the Media Commission of the North Rhine-Westphalia State Media Authority. In accordance with section 93 (4) of the North Rhine-Westphalia Media Act (*Landesmediengesetz Nordrhein-Westfalen*, LMG NRW), five members of the Media Commission are seconded by socially relevant groups which, together with the other authorised bodies, reflect the diversity of current social trends and forces in North Rhine-

Westphalia. Interested associations and organisations can apply to the state parliament, as was done by Verein Deutscher Sinti e. V. Minden. By decision of the state parliament of May 2021, the association was designated as one of four additional posts for the term of office of the Media Commission, which runs until November 2026. (*North Rhine-Westphalia*)

- Please refer to the comments in *section D.VII.7 of Germany's Fifth Report*. In addition, a member of the Rhineland-Palatinate Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V. – Landesverband Rheinland-Pfalz) was also represented in the Rhineland-Palatinate Media Authority during the reporting period. (*Rhineland-Palatinate*)
- Since the beginning of December 2021, the Broadcasting Council of Mitteldeutscher Rundfunk (MDR) has included the first member of the Sorbian people. As part of the negotiations to amend the MDR Interstate Treaty, the state government of Saxony successfully pushed for the federal state to obtain a seat on the MDR Broadcasting Council for representing the interests of the Sorbs in accordance with section 5 of the Saxon Sorbs Act (*Sächsisches Sorbengesetz, SächsSorbG*). (*Saxony*)
- In accordance with the provisions of the ZDF Interstate Treaty, a representative in the field of regional and minority languages from the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein is to be regularly seconded to the ZDF Television Council (section 21 (1) (q)). In addition, the state government endeavours to take due account of the interests of national minorities when amending relevant state treaties under media law, as has already been done in the past. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)

b. Practical measures and other relevant developments in implementing the recommendation

- Until 2021, the aim of promoting and supporting the national minority of the Sorbian people was met, among other things, by the fact that an SAEK site (Saxon training and testing channels) serving the media practice of children, young people and adults in Bautzen/Budyšin was managed by a native Sorbian speaker – and under whose leadership a share of 15 to 20 per cent of the annual project work there involved developing media projects in the Sorbian language or with a Sorbian context. Recently, in addition to webinars in the Sorbian language, new

online formats were created in cooperation with Sorbian institutions, associations and initiatives, Sorbian audio and video publications, documentaries and live streaming. In this way, almost 5,000 Sorbian online users were involved during the period of 2020-2021 alone. The team in Bautzen also worked with all Sorbian editorial teams in the region surrounding Bautzen (MDR Sorbischer Rundfunk, Sorbische Zeitung, Katólski Posoł, Płomjo, etc.) and also supported the Catholic and Evangelical Church with its own streaming of church services among other things. This enabled around 50,000 “digital churchgoers” to be reached over a period of 15 months, of which over 80 per cent were Sorbs. (**Saxony**)

- Since July 2021, a media association of socio-cultural institutions in Lusatia, mainly in the Bautzen region, continues some of the aforementioned activities. The cultural and linguistic needs of the Sorbian population in the settlement areas are taken into account in developing the relevant services, with the involvement of Sorbian institutions and native-speaker stakeholders. (**Saxony**)

II. Article 10

1. Use of minority languages in contact with administrative authorities

The Advisory Committee encourages the authorities to continue creating an environment conducive to the use of Danish, North Frisian and Sorbian in contacts with administrative authorities. (Nos. 163 – 167)

The **Federal Government** is always mindful of the desire of minorities to use their language in contact with the administrative authorities. However, as the vast majority of administrative implementation is carried out by the federal states, the focus here is on those with regional minorities in particular.

a. Policy and/or legislation implementing the recommendation

- The Bavaria Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma – Landesverband Bayern e. V.) does not claim any need for the use of the minority language Romani in contact with administrative authorities. (**Bavaria**)
- Saarland refers to the fundamental position of the Saarland Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma – Landesverband Saarland e. V.) not to communicate or use the language of Roma people outside the minority. (**Saarland**)
- The law provides that the Sorbian language can be used without restrictions in contact with the authorities in the Sorbian settlement area. The two rural districts of Bautzen and Görlitz and the majority of the 42 municipalities in the Sorbian settlement area, as well as the relevant authorities, have contact points with Sorbian language skills. The Second Action Plan of the state government of Saxony to encourage and revive the use of the Sorbian language, and in particular the municipal programme to promote bilingualism in the Sorbian municipalities, has increased the acceptance of the Sorbian language and its use. The Free State of Saxony supports each municipality every year with funding of over 5,000 euros in order to systematically implement bilingualism in public authorities, on roads/signs, on websites and in municipal institutions such as nurseries or schools. In addition, a central service office with two employees is available to all

municipalities to assist the municipalities in implementing bilingualism (not only in the form of advice, but also centralised translation services for the municipalities' statutes, etc.). This office is used extensively and the state parliament of Saxony has decided on a significant increase in annual funding from 90,000 euros to around 145,000 euros for the 2023/2024 biennial budget. (**Saxony**)

- In 2021, an evaluation of the omnibus Act Implementing the Constitutional Task of Strengthening the National Minorities and Ethnic Groups (*Gesetz zur Umsetzung des Verfassungsauftrags zur Stärkung der nationalen Minderheiten und Volksgruppen*) of 30 June 2016 (Gazette of Laws and Ordinances of Schleswig-Holstein, p. 534), on which the amendment to section 82b – Regional and minority languages before authorities (“Regional- und Minderheitensprachen vor Behörden”) – of the General Administration Act for Schleswig-Holstein (*Landesverwaltungsgesetz, LVwG*) is based, was completed. In accordance with the provisions of the omnibus Act, an evaluation report on the effects of the Act in terms of efficiency and achievement of objectives was to be submitted to the state parliament of Schleswig-Holstein. The State Chancellery of the Schleswig-Holstein commissioned this evaluation in November 2020, somewhat delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The “Project Report on the Evaluation of the Act Implementing the Constitutional Task of Strengthening the National Minorities and Ethnic Groups in Schleswig-Holstein” (*Projektbericht über die Evaluierung des Gesetzes zur Umsetzung des Verfassungsauftrags zur Stärkung der nationalen Minderheiten und Volksgruppen in Schleswig-Holstein*) was finalised in July 2021.

In October 2021, the state government took up key recommendations and conclusions from the evaluation in order to implement the legal requirements on regional and minority languages even more effectively than previously. The agreed catalogue of measures has the following aims:

- Strengthening language skills in regional and minority languages in state authorities and public institutions
- Strengthening staff's knowledge of state regulations affecting regional and minority languages

- Informing language groups about their rights before public authorities and courts and promoting language skills in younger generations
 - Increasing the visibility of regulations aimed at strengthening regional and minority languages among the majority population (**Schleswig-Holstein**)
 - The implementation measures adopted and the evaluation report were forwarded to the state parliament in the form of the “Report of the State Government on the Evaluation of the Act Implementing the Constitutional Task of Strengthening the National Minorities and Ethnic Groups (Gazette of Laws and Ordinances, No. 12, 28 July 2016, p. 534), Document 19/3339” (*Bericht der Landesregierung zur Evaluierung des Gesetzes zur Umsetzung des Verfassungsauftrages zur Stärkung nationaler Minderheiten und Volksgruppen*). (**Schleswig-Holstein**)
 - There are no legal provisions on the use of the language of the German Sinti and Roma minority in Schleswig-Holstein in public authorities. This is based on the historical desire of Schleswig-Holstein’s Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V. - Landesverband Schleswig-Holstein) to protect the language of the minority and not to make it accessible to outsiders. (**Schleswig-Holstein**)
- b. Practical measures and other relevant developments in implementing the recommendation**
- The federal state of Brandenburg finances a translation and coordination office for Low Sorbian translations for e-government services of both the federal state and the municipalities in the traditional settlement area of the Sorbs and Wends. Being located at the Sorbian Institute, the office works closely with the Lower Sorbian Language Commission to develop new administrative and legal terminology in Lower Sorbian, thus remaining in the autonomy of the Lower Sorbian-speaking population. (**Brandenburg**)
 - Since spring 2023, Lower Sorbian has also been integrated into Microsoft Translator. The ministry responsible for Sorbs and Wends in Brandenburg increasingly draws the attention of administrations and municipalities to this and the offer of the translation app “sotra.app” in order to deal with incoming enquires in the Lower Sorbian language, and is already making use of it itself. (**Brandenburg**)

- Saxony's State Ministry for Energy, Climate Protection, the Environment and Agriculture (Sächsisches Staatsministerium für Energie, Klimaschutz, Umwelt und Landwirtschaft; SMEKUL) is able to communicate with Sorbian-speaking citizens and enquirers at its sites located in the Sorbian settlement area. Some examples include: In the public relations work of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Upper Lusatian Heath and Pond Landscape, individual publications are translated into the Sorbian language and German-Sorbian events are organised. In a cooperation project between the Lusatian UNESCO sites (in Brandenburg and Saxony; duration 2023 – 2026), together with the Domowina Federation of Lusatian Sorbs (Bund Lausitzer Sorben e. V.), measures are being implemented in the context of structural change to strengthen the tourist industry and education for sustainable development in Sorbian-speaking Lusatia. (**Saxony**)
- In Schleswig-Holstein, the state government has implemented initial measures following the evaluation of the Act Implementing the Constitutional Task of Strengthening the National Minorities and Ethnic Groups (see comments in section *D.VI 1. (a)*). For example, in order to improve the knowledge of regional and minority languages of staff in the highest state authorities, it was agreed that participation in language courses in Danish, Frisian and Low German in accordance with section 9 (3) in conjunction with section 11 (2) (2) of the General Civil Service Careers Ordinance (*Allgemeine Laufbahnverordnung, ALVO*) is to be counted as a further training measure under mandatory further training for civil servants of the state administration. In order to participate in such a language course in a regional or minority language, the employer shall bear the usual costs in accordance with section 11 (7) sentence 1 of the General Civil Service Careers Ordinance. Furthermore, any employer contribution to the costs of the course is determined based on the degree of service-related interest in participating in the training measure (section 11 (7) sentence 2 of the General Civil Service Careers Ordinance). It is assumed that employers normally have an interest/participation rate of at least 50 per cent in a regional and or minority language course. The procedure is the same for staff who are not civil servants. (**Schleswig-Holstein**)

- These language skills are also addressed in the recruitment of new staff. In the decree on the publication of job vacancies for the authorities of the direct administration of the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein on the career portal of the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein, an addition was made to the formal requirements for applicants that people with knowledge of the Low German, Frisian or Danish languages are expressly welcomed. (***Schleswig-Holstein***)
- The desired linguistic diversity of young professionals in Schleswig-Holstein is also demonstrated by a recruiting film for the young talents campaign titled “Working for the state authorities: Linguistic diversity” (*Arbeiten beim Land: Sprachenvielfalt*): Danish, Frisian and Low German are of course represented. (***Schleswig-Holstein***)
- One measure to increase staff’s knowledge of state legislation affecting regional and minority languages is to incorporate this content into the training courses of the central training institutions of the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein. Starting in April/May 2023 and continuing with the new curriculum, all graduates of the programme at the University of Applied Sciences for Administration and Services (Fachhochschule für Verwaltung und Dienstleistung; FHVD) are familiarised with the issues of protecting minorities and the rights of autochthonous minority and regional languages in the administration as part of the compulsory module on intercultural competence. (***Schleswig-Holstein***)
- As of March 2023, the staff of the highest state authorities and their subordinate authorities, as well as the municipalities, have access to the website “Danish – Frisian – Low German: Regional and minority languages in the administration of Schleswig-Holstein” (*Dänisch – Friesisch – Niederdeutsch: Regional- und Minderheitensprachen in der Verwaltung in Schleswig-Holstein*) on the non-public extranet “Schleswig-Holsteinischer Informationspool” (SHIP). It compiles up-to-date information on the position of these languages, the rights of autochthonous minority and regional languages in the administration, the various aspects of strengthening these languages in the way the general public interacts with the administration, and the measures taken by the state government. (***Schleswig-Holstein***)

III. Article 11

1. Surnames in Sorbian

The Advisory Committee asks the authorities to bring the legislation governing names in line with Article 11 of the Framework Convention so suffixes can be appended to female last names. (Nos. 168 – 171)

The **Federal Government** is generally still of the view that Article 11 of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities does not require the Federal Republic of Germany to permit the change of a Sorbian family name to the feminine form. Because German naming law does not provide strict rules on the use of a name, it is already possible to use a common pen name, or for example the feminine form of a Sorbian name, for general purposes instead of one's legal name.

a. Policy and/or legislation implementing the recommendation

- Irrespective of this, on 23 August 2023, the Federal Government published a bill to amend the law on married names and birth names. This bill provides for an expansion of the possibilities under naming law for determining birth names and married names, among other things by allowing gender-adapted forms of surnames. This could also take the interest of women belonging to the Sorbian minority into account not only in using the specifically female version of the surname provided for in the Sorbian language, but also to have it entered into the civil status records. (**Federal Ministry of Justice**)

2. Topographical signs in minority languages

The Advisory Committee asks the authorities to display the official bilingual names of Sorbian localities in the Sorbian settlement areas of Brandenburg and Saxony also on road signs on motorways. (Nos. 172 – 178)

a. Policy and/or legislation implementing the recommendation

- The **Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport** reports that destination information on road signs helps with orientation online and also with finding and determining a location. The selection of destination and name is carried out solely on the

basis of transport requirements. The information on road signs is limited in length and form by the setup of the display area and by the ability of drivers to take note of this information. Therefore, for informational and display reasons, the number of destinations included on a sign needs to be limited to what is strictly necessary, with a maximum of four destinations.

- The technical regulations do not provide for multilingual signs. The spelling of the official name must be used for destinations within Germany.
- A scientific study is planned at the Federal Highway Research Institute (BAST) in order to gain insight into the impact of bilingual place names on road signs on people's ability to absorb and process information. The Minority Council will also be taken into account when recruiting the project's supervisors. A decision on the inclusion of bilingual place names on road signs is to be made on the basis of the results of this study.

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- b. **Practical measures and other relevant developments in implementing the recommendation**
 - A decision on measures will be taken on the basis of the results of the aforementioned scientific study by the Federal Highway Research Institute. (***Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport***)
 - In cooperation between Verkehrsverbund Berlin-Brandenburg (local transport operator Berlin-Brandenburg), the rural districts, the urban district in the traditional settlement area of the Sorbs and Wends and the state government, preparations were started in 2022 to fully implement the Lower Sorbian language at public transport stops. A report on the implementation progress can be provided in the next reporting period. (***Brandenburg***)
 - In the municipalities of Dissen-Striesow/Dešno-Strjažow, Heinersbrück/Móst, Jänschwalde/Janšojce und Kolkwitz/Gołkojce, during the reporting period, signs referring to traditional farm names in the Lower Sorbian language were installed. (***Brandenburg***)
 - In December 2019, the rural district of Spree-Neiße/Wokrejs Sprjewja-Nysa was the first district in the federal state of Brandenburg to make use of the possibility of official bilingual place names in German and Lower Sorbian. (***Brandenburg***)

IV. Article 12

1. Education about national minorities

The Advisory Committee urges the authorities to ensure that pupils throughout Germany learn about the history and contribution of Frisians, Danes, Sinti and Roma and Sorbs to German society in order to create understanding for the continuity and benefits of diversity. The authorities should make all necessary efforts so the ongoing and planned initiatives on this matter within the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder are brought to a conclusion. (Nos. 179 – 191)

Since 2022, the **Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community** has been supporting the organisation of the travelling exhibition “What is a minority?” (*Was heißt hier Minderheit?*) as part of funding for the Minority Secretariat of the four autochthonous national minorities and ethnic groups. The aim of the exhibition is to also teach school pupils about the situation and history of national minorities and the regional language of Low German. Previously, starting in 2018, the development and organisation of the travelling exhibition was also funded from the BMI budget. A total budget of 92,000 euros was allocated in 2021 and 2022 for the production of a film aimed at providing information on the four autochthonous national minorities and ethnic groups in Germany and the Low German speakers. The film is aimed at members of the majority society who have no prior knowledge of the four autochthonous minorities in Germany and the regional language of Low German, e.g. school pupils and participants of educational and training courses, including those organised by the Minority Secretariat or minority associations working in the Minority Council (Minderheitenrat). Schools should also be able to use the film on a voluntary basis.

In a letter of 30 December 2022, the Secretariat for the Four Autochthonous National Minorities in Germany asked the President of the Standing Conference of Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany (Kultusministerkonferenz; KMK) to strengthen teaching on the four autochthonous national minorities and ethnic groups of Germany and on the speaker group of Low German in schools. In her reply of 3 March 2023, the President of the KMK first proposed an exploratory discussion at working level with the federal states particularly affected. This meeting took place on

28 June 2023 with the participation of Schleswig-Holstein, Lower Saxony, Hamburg, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Brandenburg, Saxony and North Rhine-Westphalia. The federal states that participated in the exploratory discussion support the plan to draw up a KMK recommendation to provide knowledge on the four autochthonous national minorities and ethnic groups in Germany and the speaker group of Low German. The issue concerns all federal states and first requires consultation with representatives of the federal states that did not participate in the exploratory discussion. At the meeting of the School Committee of the KMK on 21-22 September 2023, the concern of the Minority Council was addressed and support was expressed for the creation of a joint recommendation. A joint working group is being set up with members of the School Committee and representatives of the four autochthonous national minorities and ethnic groups of Germany and the Low German speaker group, subject to the pending mandate by the Conference of Deputy Ministers of the KMK.

a. Policy and/or legislation implementing the recommendation

- Please refer to the comments in section *C.I.2.g.* regarding the signing of the Joint Declaration on teaching about the history and present-day lives of Sinti and Roma in schools. Teacher training is also important in this context. (**KMK**)
- The joint objective agreed by the Free State of Bavaria and the Bavaria Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma – Landesverband Bayern e. V.) is to create a spirit of tolerance and mutual respect by reducing knowledge deficits and preventing and intervening against antigypsyist attitudes and incidents in the context of promoting democracy and equality among the population. (**Bavaria**)
- Please refer to the *comments in section D.III.1.* (**Lower Saxony**)
- Please refer to the comments in *section D.IX.9. of Germany's Fifth Report.* (**Rhineland-Palatinate**)
- In accordance with section 2 (3) of the Saxon Schools Act in the version published on 27 September 2018 (Saxon Law Gazette, p. 648), which was last amended by the Act of 2 February 2023 (Saxon Law Gazette, p. 62), all schools in the Free State of Saxony shall impart basic knowledge of the history and culture of the Sorbian people. This learning content has been incorporated into the curricula of the Free State of Saxony as a compulsory element. The textbooks used in Saxony usually

contain topic-specific information on the history and culture of the Sorbs. This provides the necessary legal bases and learning tools to impart basic knowledge about the history and culture of the Sorbian people. Saxony's State Ministry for Culture intends to provide support to teachers in the form of working materials for pupils and other information. To this end, a new page is being developed for the Saxony education server, which will contain information on the Sorbs' history and culture, as well as on the other indigenous national minorities and ethnic groups in Germany and the speaker group of Low German. (*Saxony*)

- In Schleswig-Holstein, new materials for teaching Danish to beginners in lower secondary and upper secondary education were published in 2022, with financial support from the State Ministry for Education and the Institute for Quality Development at Schools in Schleswig-Holstein (Institut für Qualitätsentwicklung an Schulen in Schleswig-Holstein; IQSH). Both the textbook for the lower secondary level, *Velkommen til! 1*, and the textbook for the upper secondary level, *Vi ses! Det er dansk – bind 2* (book 2), address the German-Danish history and the situation of the German minority in southern Denmark and the Danish minority in northern Schleswig-Holstein. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)
- In January 2023, the Minorities Secretariat in Berlin, with the involvement of the Low German Secretariat and the Bunnsraat för Nedderdüütsch in Hamburg, contacted the Schleswig-Holstein State Chancellery and the specialist regional and minority language unit in the State Ministry for Education. The Minority Secretariat proposed to develop a module on teacher training on minorities and the Low German speaker group, including information on national minorities and ethnic groups. Schleswig-Holstein appears to be particularly suitable due to its particular diversity of national minorities, ethnic groups and speaker groups. The module is to be made available to all federal states in the future. In addition, teaching materials for imparting knowledge on minorities and the Low German speaker group in all types of schools and different grades are also sought. Schleswig-Holstein will support this initiative by creating an additional post at the IQSH for the second phase of teacher training in regional and minority languages for the 2023/24 school year. The IQSH plans to use partial resources from this post to start work

on a concept for teacher training on minorities and the Low German speaker group. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)

b. Practical measures and other relevant developments in implementing the recommendation

- In Baden-Württemberg, the importance of diversity and protection of minorities in education and teaching is highlighted in particular by the guidelines on promoting tolerance and acceptance (*Bildung für Toleranz und Akzeptanz von Vielfalt*) in the education plan. The core objective of the guidelines is to promote mutual respect and appreciation for differences and to understand the constructive approach to diversity as an important competence for people in a diverse modern society. The guidelines thus create a comprehensive opportunity to address the history and present-day lives of Sinti and Roma in the classroom. (*Baden-Württemberg*)
- Berlin's curricula provide the following information about Sinti and Roma:
 - "Multidisciplinary topics", grades 1-10:
 - Part B of the curriculum for grades 1-10 – "Multidisciplinary competence development" (2015) calls on teachers from all subjects of grades 1-10 to "educate on the acceptance of diversity". Reference is made in particular to the "appreciation of ethnic, linguistic, religious and cultural diversity" in education (p. 25).
 - The multidisciplinary topic of "Intercultural education" also points to the relevance of education in terms of perception and appreciation of "cultural, ethnic, linguistic, social and philosophical diversity" (p. 31).
 - Focus of lower secondary level – social sciences 5/6:
 - The chapter "Themes and Content" includes chapter 3.10 "Diversity in society – Challenge and/or opportunity?", which explicitly refers to Sinti and Roma. There it states: "Exclusion and participation: Treatment of excluded persons (...) under the Nazi regime: (...) Sinti and Roma", "Treatment of excluded persons today (...); how coexistence can become cohesion (...) using illustrative examples." (p. 36)

- Focus of lower secondary level – history:
 - Part C of the history curriculum for grades 1-10, History (2015), explicitly mentions Roma and Sinti in the context of Nazism (double grade 9/10) as follows:

“World War II and Holocaust/genocide/murder (perpetrators; victims: Jews, Sinti and Roma, disabled people, homosexuals, political resistance). (*Berlin*)
- In Bremen, the anti-discrimination offices (DIBS – Diskriminierungsschutz und Beratung) started their work in 2022. They are the point of contact and advice for pupils in Bremen and Bremerhaven who experience discrimination at school. They also provide advice to teachers who have questions about discrimination in schools. The offices are part of the regional advisory and support centres (Regionale Beratungs- und Unterstützungszentren; ReBUZ) in Bremen and Bremerhaven, which are an institution of the federal state of Bremen and the education authority of the State Senate. (*Bremen*)
- Anti-discrimination work in schools in Bremen is also strengthened through the provision of materials, broad and up-to-date training and the development of networks. Equipping all teachers and pupils with iPads at an early stage at all schools in Bremen has had a very positive impact. Not only during the pandemic, but also now, teachers and pupils make extensive use of the “itslearning” platform in school life and teaching. This promotes exchanges and peer counselling and networking on issues relating to teaching, school life and explicitly also to dealing with discrimination. The education plans of subjects in social sciences offer multiple opportunities to learn about national minorities in historical, social and cultural terms, in units such as “Rules of coexistence”, “Coexistence in communities and groups”, “Values and traditions of our own and of others”, as well as in addressing human rights and children’s rights. In the 2022/23 school year, antigypsyism (“Sinti and Roma in the German Empire”) was an explicit topic of the Abitur (university entrance certificate). To prepare for this topic, several (online) courses were offered in 2021/22 to train teachers. In addition, the “bremen

shakespeare company” and the University of Bremen raised the issue of discrimination against Sinti and Roma in the German Empire in the 16th scenic reading of the series “From the records to the stage” (*Aus den Akten auf die Bühne*), an award-winning historical theatre project. EuropaPunkt Bremen also supported this focus in the panel discussion “Antigypsyism in Europe – past and present” (*Antiziganismus in Europa – Gestern und Heute*), with affected individuals from the community, politicians from the European Parliament and historians specialising in the issue of the long-standing exclusion and persecution of Sinti and Roma and ways to end this. (**Bremen**)

- In Hamburg’s schools, the topic of national minorities can be addressed according to the relevant curricula for various subjects, including history and political sciences/social sciences/economics, as well as the area of intercultural education; there are various points of reference in the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg. For example, aspects of the history and culture of German Sinti and Roma can be addressed in social studies or in history and political sciences/social studies/business studies at in grades 9/10 in the Stadtteilschulen (a new type of combined secondary school introduced in Hamburg as an alternative to grammar school) in the context of the unit on minorities and immigration. In political sciences/social studies/business studies (grades 8 to 10) in Gymnasien (schools that prepare pupils for university), pupils are taught about German Sinti and Roma as part of the unit on migration and minorities; in history, this area is covered in further detail in grades 9 and 10 in the context of the Nazi extermination policy. In the pre-upper secondary level of Stadtteilschulen, the subject of Sinti and Roma can be dealt with in history lessons as part of the unit on “Minorities and migration / Germany as a country of immigration”. In addition, the curriculum for religion and intercultural learning offers connections to the topic of Sinti and Roma. (**Hamburg**)
- The revision of the education plans for schools offering general education (still ongoing in 2023) foresees further strengthening this topic. For example, the revised curriculum for history published in December 2022 includes thematic references to the topic of minorities, and the national minority of Sinti and Roma is to be addressed explicitly in teaching. The curricula for grades 5 to 11 also provide

for the topic of national minorities, in particular Sinti and Roma, to be included as mandatory teaching content. (**Hamburg**)

- In Hesse, the topic was implemented as part of the revision of the core curriculum for the subject of history for the upper secondary level, which entered into force on 1 August 2021, as follows:
 - The Nazi dictatorship – Destruction of democracy and human rights in Germany and Europe
 - Basic principles of the Nazi regime: terror and propaganda, *Volks-gemeinschaft* (people’s community), gender relations, education, full employment through rearmament, exclusion of *Gemeinschafts-fremde* (people alien to the community, i.e. Jews, Sinti and Roma, homosexuals, people with disabilities and people declared to be “antisocial”), eugenics; acceptance and resistance of the German population,
 - Genocide and destruction policies in the context of World War II (war of extermination based on racial ideologies against the Soviet Union, the role of the SS and the German Wehrmacht, the Holocaust [Shoah] and genocide of Sinti and Roma, “euthanasia” and other systematic killings)
 - Dealing with the Nazi past – “Overcoming the past”?
 - “Reparation”? (e.g. compensation proceedings in the Federal Republic of Germany: legal situation and reality; international treaties: Luxembourg Agreement; Jewish Claims Conference; restitution of forced labourers and of Sinti and Roma) (**Hesse**)
- In teacher training, this issue is dealt with in greater depth as a cross-sectional subject in the respective events involving the training subject, in particular, however, in the practical seminar. This includes a compulsory visit to a memorial site directly related to Nazism as part of teacher training, during which trainee teachers discuss the crimes of the Nazi regime and the lessons to be learned for the future. (**Rhineland-Palatinate**)

- The history of Sinti and Roma is enshrined in Saarland’s curricula for social sciences in comprehensive schools (grades 9 – 10) in the unit “Democracy and dictatorship in the 20th century” and for history (grade 9) for the lower secondary level in the unit “National Socialism”, as well as for the upper secondary level (advanced course) in the unit “Germany under the Nazi regime”.

The mandatory basic skills to be acquired are as follows: Pupils learn to describe and evaluate the systematic marginalisation, persecution and extermination of Jews, Sinti and Roma, other minorities and opponents of the regime (social studies in comprehensive schools, grades 9 – 10); pupils learn to characterise the crimes against Jews and other minorities (e.g. Sinti and Roma) and the war of extermination in Eastern Europe (history).

In the unit “Democracy and dictatorship in the 20th century” of the 2022 curriculum for social sciences (grades 9 – 10) in comprehensive schools, pupils learn to explain the phases of the Second World War and discuss the war in the East as a racist-based war of extermination. (**Saarland**)

- The curricula for the lower secondary level and for the upper secondary level in Gymnasien are as follows:

In order to strengthen expertise on this topic, the unit “National Socialism” in the history curriculum for the lower secondary level (grade 9) of 2014 (p. 51/52) teaches about the characterisation of crimes against Jews and other minorities (e.g. Sinti and Roma) and the war of extermination in Eastern Europe. In lessons, the crimes committed by the Nazi regime are presented as a breach of all existing civilisation and moral norms, thereby further enhancing pupil’ ability to assess the issue. The key importance of committing oneself to respecting human rights is explained in order to raise pupils’ awareness of active advocacy for democratic values in their role as citizens, e.g. through civic engagement. (**Saarland**)

- The curriculum for history at the upper secondary level (advanced course) of 2019 (p. 28 et seqq.) explicitly refers to the history of Sinti and Roma in the unit on “Germany and National Socialism”. According to the curriculum, the concept of the *Volksgemeinschaft* (people’s community) is defined and the exclusion processes of certain communities, including those of German Sinti and Roma, are

taught. In addition, the objectives, methods and extent of Nazi extermination are discussed using the example of the Shoah, as well as other examples such as the persecution and destruction of Sinti and Roma in the “Third Reich”. Teaching and learning objectives include reviewing current nationalist and xenophobic developments, as well as possible attempts to trivialise Nazism. Pupils form opinions on these topics as a way of improving skills for taking action. In addition, the section “possible work assignments and complementary teaching methods” of the 2019 curriculum for history of the upper secondary level (advanced course) offers students the opportunity to hold presentations on marginalised or persecuted minorities (e.g. on people with disabilities, homosexuals, Sinti and Roma, Jehovah’s Witnesses) using various media. (*Saarland*)

- There is a pilot project currently funded in the Free State of Saxony to promote the language, culture, history and self-empowerment of Sinti and Roma. The project experiments with ways for minority representatives to give talks at schools about themselves and their culture/history/language – in the classroom and in the context of projects. At the same time, minority-member children should also be involved. During this process, materials will be developed that can be made available to other schools in the future. (*Saxony*)
- The Thuringian curricula are standard- and competence-oriented. The curriculum is limited to describing compulsory key competences specific to particular subject areas or tasks and to identifying key content. Further details are intentionally avoided. In principle, it is the pedagogical responsibility of the teaching staff and the school’s subject-area committee to teach the individual topics while taking into account connections to the present, regional circumstances and pupils’ interests in such a way that pupils acquire knowledge that they can apply. (*Thuringia*)

2. Equal access to education

The Advisory Committee calls on the authorities to take effective measures to ensure equal opportunities for Sinti and Roma children at all levels, including by providing consistent learning support with the help of school mediators and by ensuring that teachers are adequately trained to systematically prevent and combat discriminatory attitudes. A comprehensive study on challenges faced by Sinti and Roma children in education should be undertaken to base

these measures on solid evidence. Representatives of Sinti and Roma should participate effectively in the design of both the study and the measures taken. (Nos. 192 – 203)

a. Policy and/or legislation implementing the recommendation

- The principle of not gathering ethnicity-based data in Germany creates certain challenges when it comes to taking specific account of Sinti and Roma. The Federal Government will address these challenges through a participatory process. **(Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth)**
- In Baden-Württemberg, services and measures for one-to-one support and support for the various types of school; language promotion; support through school social work and school psychological counselling services; catch-up services in the aftermath of the coronavirus pandemic; vocational guidance and support for the transition from school to vocational and higher education are, in principle, targeted at all pupils. Participation or use of a service are decided solely on the basis of actual need; other criteria, such as ethnic origin or social background, do not play a role. **(Baden-Württemberg)**
- The coordination of more targeted measures in the field of education (e.g. the development of training modules) is regularly discussed with the Baden-Württemberg Association of German Sinti and Roma.
The 2021 RomnoKher study titled “Inequal Participation – The Situation of Sinti and Roma in Germany” (*Ungleiche Teilhabe – Zur Lage der Sinti und Roma in Deutschland*), which was initiated and carried out by minority associations with the support of the EVZ Foundation (Stiftung Erinnerung, Verantwortung und Zukunft) also forms an important basis. **(Baden-Württemberg)**
- Please refer to the comments in section *D.II.5.a.* **(Hamburg)**
- In addition to the comments in section *C.I.1.*, issues relating to measures to promote equality in education are the subject of the contractual negotiations in the context of the further development of the framework agreement of 25 July 2005. **(Rhineland-Palatinate)**
- As early as 2012, in Schleswig-Holstein, members of the German Sinti and Roma minority were trained as educational advisers by the Schleswig Vocational Train-

ing Centre (Berufsbildungszentrum Schleswig) in order to support minority children in school education. The project was launched in 2014. The Schleswig-Holstein Association of German Sinti and Roma has been a sponsor of the project since then. This measure is therefore coordinated at schools by an employee of the Schleswig-Holstein Association of German Sinti and Roma in cooperation with the State Ministry of Education, Training, Science, Research and Culture. It is possible for this coordinator to provide consultations on a case-by-case basis throughout the federal state. In 2022, some of the educational advisers participated in a training course offered by the Hildegard Lagrenne Foundation, Berlin, to become educational mediators. The overall aim is to increase the educational opportunities of children and young people, thus enabling successful school transitions. Together with the Schleswig-Holstein Association of German Sinti and Roma, the extension of educational counselling to early childhood education and vocational training is currently being planned. Preliminary discussions with the relevant stakeholders from the public administration, the minority and the education system have already taken place. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)

- There are no special projects and measures aimed at German Sinti and Roma, Roma from EU member states and Roma from third countries. However, pre-school and school measures to promote language skills, one-to-one support in each of the different types of school and support when transitioning from school to vocational and higher education can, where necessary, be provided to those groups. (*Thuringia*)

b. Practical measures and other relevant developments in implementing the recommendation

- School, as a key place of democracy education, and in particular the (trainee) teachers, have an important role to play in promoting democratic coexistence in society and combating group-focused enmity and exclusion. Teacher training in Berlin covers this in a variety of ways: For example, in several compulsory and elective modules, trainee teachers learn about human rights, educating on accepting diversity and intercultural education. For several years, the series “Stand-

punkte-Reihe", which is carried out in cooperation with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, has enabled teachers in Berlin's teacher training to address the issue of discrimination. In addition to theoretical elements and space for self-reflection, focus is also placed on strengthening trainee teachers' ability to deal with group-focused enmity in the school context. As part of the working group on intercultural education, a group of seminar instructors also focuses on aspects related to discrimination and incorporates their work into the training of their trainee teachers. (**Berlin**)

- Equal access to education is ensured by the legal and organisational framework conditions which apply to schools in Brandenburg. At the same time, implementation within these framework conditions is also supported for Sinti and Roma children through services in the areas of school development, school counselling and teacher training. This includes support for school pupils and relevant teacher training. However, a study on the challenges faced by Sinti and Roma children in education has not yet been carried out. The framework conditions did not change during the reporting period. This topic is embedded in anti-racism work, democracy education, strengthening diversity, etc. (based, for example, on the state government's plan of action to combat racism in the state of Brandenburg, the Brandenburg Schools Act (*Brandenburgisches Schulgesetz, BbgSchulG*), the curricula, school counselling services and school development programmes, and further training programmes). The decisions of the Standing Conference of Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany (Kultusministerkonferenz; KMK) of 2018 on democracy and human rights education as an objective and subject matter in schools must be implemented. (**Brandenburg**)
- Since the 1990s, Bremen has had specific assistance programmes for Sinti and Roma children which include remedial education and outreach to their families. In this context, there are a range of different instruments available which do justice to the heterogeneity of the Sinti and Roma community, given that it comprises "established" German Sinti, labour migrants from EU member states and refugees from non-EU member states. (**Bremen**)

- The work done in the context of the State Ministry of Education's project to support Sinti and Roma pupils is no substitute for the assistance provided by their own schools. Instead it follows a separate strategy, providing support to and supplementing the schools' own efforts. In order to integrate pupils into the regular educational process and enable them to achieve a (higher) school-leaving certificate, targeted support measures are put in place within the teaching units as part of the inclusive school approach. Remedial teaching is provided individually, in small groups and during classroom instruction. Project team members are in close contact with the parents of those children who are receiving remedial instruction, they hold meetings aimed at building trust and support families in their external contacts. The aim in creating "role models" is for families to develop an interest in their children's education.

Project members also advise teachers, head teachers and parents when problems arise. The objective here is to ensure that interactions between the school and parents are based on mutual acceptance and respect, to show pupils that they can participate actively in social life and to support them as they grow up in different cultures. The schools receive support in developing strategies which take account of and are sensitive to different cultures, and teachers are taught about the everyday culture of the Sinti and Roma. (*Bremen*)

- The Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg has a specific action plan to encourage school attendance by Sinti and Roma. Under this plan, members of the Sinti and Roma community are employed as teachers or educational advisers at schools, where they work together with other teaching staff; act as a link between schools and the Sinti and Roma children's families; support Sinti and Roma children in class (including in their native language); teach Sinti and Roma history, culture and music; and advise teaching staff on working with Sinti and Roma children and their families. Currently, 11 members of the Sinti and Roma community are working as school social workers and educational advisers in schools in Hamburg. For measures in the field of anti-discrimination, please also refer to the comments in section *D.II.2.b. (Hamburg)*

- Providing Romani classes at schools in Hesse is a rather unlikely prospect and would be a lengthy process at best. This is due to the ongoing debate within the German Sinti and Roma community on the public use of the Romani language. The State Treaty concluded by the Hesse state government and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma, Landesverband Hessen e. V.) emphasises the importance that Hesse attaches to preserving and protecting the language of the Sinti and Roma. In this treaty, the federal state of Hesse undertook to expand educational offerings for Sinti and Roma. For its part, the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma declared that it would “take further measures to promote Romani”. (*Hesse*)
- The difficulties of implementation continue to lie, among other things, in the ongoing discourse among German Sinti and Roma on the approach to opening up the Romani language. For historical reasons, many members of the minority have long been opposed to using the Romani language in public. (*Hesse*)
- A pilot project currently funded in the Free State of Saxony aims to promote language, culture and history and to empower Sinti and Roma. To achieve this, minority representatives are to provide information about their minority and their culture/history/language in school lessons and projects. At the same time, minority-member children are also to be involved. This will be implemented in a pilot project in up to three schools in Saxony. During this process, materials are to be developed that can be made available to other schools in the future. Given the assumed small number of Sinti and Roma in Saxony and the difficulty of identifying people to interview, implementing the requested study is considered difficult. (*Saxony*)
- For schools in Thuringia, Romani language and cultural mediators are available for cooperation with parents and schools under a cooperation agreement with SprIntpool Thuringia. This work is financed by Thuringia’s Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (Ministerium für Bildung, Jugend und Sport; TMBJS). (*Thuringia*)

c. Data, statistics or information to assess the impact of the measures taken

- Currently, five educational advisers (three women and two men) and five educational mediators (all of whom are women) support the minority children in teaching, homework and learning elsewhere in nine schools providing general education and at a support centre in Kiel and Lübeck. Cooperation with parents is an important focus of the work. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)
- Thuringia's Ministry for Education, Youth and Sport (Thüringer Ministerium für Bildung, Jugend und Sport; TMBJS) cooperates with Thuringia's RomnoKher Association (RomnoKher Thüringen e. V.) on educational issues concerning Roma children in Thuringia. This happens in the context of talks with the state's education offices on issues of migration, particularly in connection with the arrival of many Roma families from Ukraine and the prevention of educational disadvantage. (*Thuringia*)

V. Article 13

1. Teaching in Danish in private schools

The Advisory Committee encourages the authorities to continue supporting the Danish private school system at the level necessary to provide for the needs of the minority.

a. Policy and/or legislation implementing the recommendation

- In principle, the institutions themselves are responsible for teaching Danish in private schools in Schleswig-Holstein. The main stakeholder in this field is the Danish Schools Association for South Schleswig (Dansk Skoleforening for Sydslesvig e. V.). In the schools of the Danish minority, the language of instruction is Danish in all subjects except German, and Danish is taught as a native-language-level subject. With regard to the financing of schools belonging to the Danish minority and changes, please refer to the *comments in section C.I.7. (Schleswig-Holstein)*

b. Data, statistics or information to assess the impact of the measures taken

- The Danish Schools Association annually records the number of pupils in its schools and makes these statistics available to the State Ministry for Education for information purposes. Attached are the statistics for the 2022/23 school year prepared by the State Ministry for Education. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)

VI. Article 14

1. Teaching of Danish in public schools

The Advisory Committee encourages the authorities to continue supporting the teaching of Danish as a foreign language in mainstream public schools. Solutions should be sought to create environments where graduates from

Danish schools continue being exposed to the language and culture while in apprenticeships or vocational education. (Nos. 209 – 213)

a. Policy and/or legislation implementing the recommendation

- During the reporting period, a wide range of measures to promote Danish teaching in public schools were launched and implemented in Schleswig-Holstein:
 - German–Danish Declaration of Intent on education, language cooperation and training (by decision of the Standing Conference of Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the federal states (KMK); 2019): The KMK agreed to the draft Declaration of Intent on education, language cooperation and training, which was made between Germany’s Federal Foreign Office and Denmark’s ministry of education. The Secretary-General of the KMK signed the Declaration of Intent on behalf of Germany’s federal states.
 - School exchanges with Denmark: In 2018, the state parliament of Schleswig-Holstein mandated the state government to draw up an “internationalisation strategy” to support schools with international initiatives. For schools in Schleswig-Holstein, school exchanges with Denmark are of particular importance for the implementation of the “internationalisation strategy”. (This strategy was developed at Schleswig-Holstein’s ministry of education, by the department for comprehensive schools with an upper secondary level.) School partnerships with Denmark are characterised by long-standing and diverse exchanges, and by closeness to Schleswig-Holstein. They are an important element in the

internationalisation of schools in Schleswig-Holstein – from an academic, economic and ecological perspective. The German–Danish declaration of friendship and the Schleswig-Holstein government’s ideas for cross-border cooperation between Germany and Denmark – which are cornerstones of the Denmark strategy – as well as the current joint action plan between Denmark and Germany are regarded by Schleswig-Holstein’s ministry of education as an excellent basis for the further development of relations at school level.

- Promotion of learning mobility via the Erasmus+ programme: The new Erasmus+ programme provides funding opportunities for European school exchanges. Schleswig-Holstein’s ministry of education and the Schleswig-Holstein Institute for Vocational Education (Schleswig-Holsteinisches Institut für Berufliche Bildung; SHIBB) have become accredited partner institutions for the current programme period 2021–2027. They will use the funding to implement the “internationalisation strategy” by systematically and sustainably increasing the international activities of schools. As Erasmus+ partners, Schleswig-Holstein’s ministry of education (MBWFK) and the SHIBB will provide funding for up to 20 new school partnerships between secondary schools in Schleswig-Holstein and Denmark, with the aim of strengthening linguistic/cultural exchanges between the two countries. After the signing of the declaration of friendship in 2021, the Danish schools ministry proposed this project to Germany’s federal states via the German Embassy. Schleswig-Holstein was quickly able to assent to Denmark’s proposal through the Erasmus+ partnership programme. On the Danish side, the National Centre for Foreign Languages (NCFE) at the University of Copenhagen was put in charge of the project.

Since the beginning of the 2022/23 school year, the MBWFK and the NCFE have established 13 new partnerships (11 for general education and two for vocational training). The MBWFK and the NCFE work together to find appropriate matches for school partnerships on the basis

of formal and educational criteria. In 2022, a survey was carried out of Schleswig-Holstein schools (upper secondary level), to which 16 interested schools in Schleswig-Holstein responded.

Planned amounts of funding: €114,947 in 2022/23 and €129,922 in 2023/24

- EU-funded Interreg A programmes for “Germany–Denmark”: Cross-border activities and meetings of pupils and teachers can be funded as micro-projects using the “citizens project fund”. Educational institutions can also participate as project partners in regular projects and make use of this opportunity.
- An application has been made for the project “Fehmarn Belt Educational Region” (*Fehmarnbelt-Bildungsregion*), an Interreg VI A programme for “Germany–Denmark”. For this project, the MBWFK and the Institute for Quality Development at Schools in Schleswig-Holstein (Institut für Qualitätsentwicklung an Schulen Schleswig-Holstein; IQSH) have been invited, as network partners, to contribute to a discussion (without financial commitment) of specific measures to promote the attractiveness of Danish in the Fehmarn Belt region and to provide continuous information on other issues in the project, e.g. neighbour-language pilot projects at vocational schools. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)

b. Practical measures and other relevant developments in implementing the recommendation

- German–Danish neighbour-language teaching approach:

In recent years, Danish teaching at schools in Schleswig-Holstein has been developed to use a special German–Danish neighbour-language teaching approach.

Under this approach, teaching of the neighbour language takes into account the varying degrees of closeness that characterise the German–Danish border region, and which distinguish these neighbour languages from other foreign languages.

The neighbour-language teaching approach provides a framework that can help teachers plan their lessons by focusing on the geographical, historical, cultural

and linguistic closeness between Germany and Denmark and their respective languages. In 2022, a publication on German–Danish neighbour-language teaching was produced. This work was a cooperation between Danish and German academics, researchers, school practitioners and administrators. It was carried out at the Region Sønderjylland-Schleswig (a regional centre for cross-border cooperation). Since 2016, this approach has been stipulated in the subject-specific requirements for Danish teaching at lower and upper secondary schools for general education; it is also stipulated in the Guidelines for the subject-specific requirements for Danish, published in 2019.

The development of German–Danish neighbour-language teaching and the growing need for online materials have led to a requirement for new Danish teaching materials at all school levels. Initiatives have been launched to improve the situation of Danish teaching. These initiatives come from Schleswig-Holstein’s ministry of education (MBWFK) and the Institute for Quality Development at Schools in Schleswig-Holstein (IQSH). From 2019 until the 2022/23 school year, teaching materials were developed and published with financial support from the MBWFK and IQSH. These materials now provide a solid and up-to-date basis for Danish teaching at all school levels. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)

- Teaching materials:
 - Primary level: The first-grade textbook *Paul og Emma snakker dansk* was published in 2019 by Quickborn-Verlag Hamburg. Additional materials such as worksheets and audio files can be downloaded by teachers free of charge from an IQSH website.
 - Lower secondary level: *Velkommen til! 1* – book 1 of a two-volume series – was published in May 2022 by Ernst Klett Sprachen. The course consists of a student’s book, a workbook and a teacher’s guide on teaching Danish to beginners at lower secondary level (from seventh or ninth grade). Online materials accompanying the book are available for teachers to download, as is the Klett-Augmented-App with audio files. *Velkommen til! 2* – the second volume in the series – was published in June 2023.

- Upper secondary level: For the upper secondary level, *Værsgo! Det er dansk – bind 1* (book 1) and *Vi ses! Det er dansk – bind 2* (book 2) were published at the beginning of the school year 2022/23 (for pupils at 11th grade and at vocational schools). For both books, a student's book and a vocabulary booklet were published by the IQSH. These can be downloaded by teachers free of charge from an IQSH website. Teachers can also download audio files free of charge from an IQSH website on Danish.

Both of these new Danish textbook series for lower and upper secondary level focus on work-related topics. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)

- Vocational schools:

For the younger generation, the value of the neighbour language Danish is high in terms of job opportunities on both sides of the border. In the 2022/23 school year, Danish was taught at eight vocational schools. The possibility of introducing Danish as a subject at other vocational schools is under continual assessment.

The schools themselves produce teaching materials tailored to their specific dual-system vocational training courses. Vocational schools offer a professional foreign language certificate accredited by the Standing Conference of Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the federal states (KMK). At level A2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), this certificate is recognised, among others, by the chambers of commerce for the business qualification *Europakaufmann/Europakauffrau*. At CEFR level B1, the certificate is recognised by two-year full-time vocational schools (BOS) as proof of second foreign language skills for university entrance. (See the framework agreement on certification of foreign language skills in vocational training, adopted by the KMK in a decision of 20 November 1998 and amended on 14 September 2017; see also the skills-oriented qualification profile for the further development of foreign language skills at vocational schools, adopted by the KMK in a decision of 17 December 2020.) (*Schleswig-Holstein*)

- Voluntary Danish lessons in primary schools:

In the German–Danish year of cultural friendship in 2020, Schleswig-Holstein’s ministry of education (MBWFK) allowed public primary schools in the state of Schleswig-Holstein to apply for status as a model school for Danish, with a teaching concept and a KMK decision. In the 2020/21 school year, voluntary lessons in the minority/neighbour language of Danish were introduced at seven primary schools. A similar scheme was already in place at model schools for Low German. Each school was granted two hours of Danish lessons per week. By the 2022/23 school year, the number of model schools had increased from seven to nine. It is an expanding system, in that each school is granted two additional hours of lessons the following year for pupils from the next grade. Thus, by 2024/25, Danish lessons should be available for pupils in all four grades at the participating schools (although this may depend on the circumstances of the individual schools). The model schools for Danish use the textbook *Paul og Emma snakker dansk*, which is provided to them by the Institute for Quality Development at Schools in Schleswig-Holstein (IQSH). The model schools also receive flashcards developed by the state-wide specialists for Danish, Frisian and Low German at the IQSH, and funded by the state of Schleswig-Holstein. Flashcards are also provided to the model schools for Frisian and Low German. Additional materials and audio files accompanying the textbook *Paul og Emma snakker dansk* can be downloaded by teachers free of charge from an IQSH website. (***Schleswig-Holstein***)

- Danish Network – Specialist team for Danish:
The specialist team for Danish comprises the following members: the state-wide specialist for Danish at the IQSH; the IQSH heads of studies; the school and specialist supervisors for modern languages from the general and vocational education department at the ministry of education (MBWFK) and the Schleswig-Holstein Institute for Vocational Education (SHIBB); selected Danish teachers; professors at the University of Kiel and the Europa-Universität Flensburg; a jury member of the national foreign languages competition; the persons responsible for implementing the “internationalisation strategy” for schools in Schleswig-Holstein from the MBWFK and the SHIBB (e.g. Erasmus+, Interreg programme,

etc.); the policy officer for regional and minority languages at the MBWFK; representatives of the secretariat and infocentre of the Region Sønderjylland-Schleswig (centre for cross-border cooperation); representatives of the Næstved municipality in Denmark; and representatives of the Fehmarn Belt region. The aim of the specialist team for Danish is to promote Danish as a subject in public schools for general and vocational education in Schleswig-Holstein. The team meets once a year. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)

c. Data, statistics or information to assess the impact of the measures taken

- In Schleswig-Holstein, the figures on Danish teaching in schools for general and vocational education are recorded annually. The Annex to this report contains statistics on the development of Danish lessons from the school years of 2014/15 to 2022/23 as well as the current statistics for the 2022/23 school year at model primary schools, comprehensive schools, comprehensive schools with upper secondary level, *Gymnasien* and vocational schools. The number of pupils studying Danish has remained relatively stable, despite the overall decrease in number of pupils. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)

2. North Frisian teaching

The Advisory Committee calls on the authorities to undertake ample measures to incentivise the learning in and of the North Frisian language at preschool, school and university levels. (Nos. 214 – 218)

a. Policy and/or legislation implementing the recommendation

- The decree on “Frisian at Schools in the District of Nordfriesland and Heligoland” remained in force in Schleswig-Holstein until 31 July 2023. An updated version of the decree was sent to the Frisian-speaking associations for consultation in June 2023. The new decree, which was amended based on feedback from the consultation, entered into force on 1 August 2023 and will expire on 31 July 2026. The plan is that a further update of the decree will follow on from that period, based on developments resulting from the newly available resources for producing teaching materials and strengthening Frisian teaching. Schleswig-Holstein’s

Teaching Capacity Regulation (Kapazitätsverordnung Lehrkräfte, KapVO-LK; version of 4 February 2021) provides that students can receive up to 25 credits for a certificate in the minority language of Frisian, just as they can for a certificate in German as a second language. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)

b. Practical measures and other relevant developments in implementing the recommendation

- At the beginning of the 2021/22 school year, in Schleswig-Holstein, in the district of Nordfriesland, nine schools from the German school system and three schools of the Danish minority were awarded a Frisian model school plaque and a logo for their websites. This was in recognition of their exemplary Frisian teaching and the great dedication of all those involved. The awards help to increase the public visibility of the schools' Frisian language teaching. Furthermore, in addition to receiving copies of *Paul än Emma snååke frasch* (a textbook for mainland Frisian) and *Paul an Emma snaake fering* (a textbook for Föhr Frisian), both published in 2018, all Frisian model schools received flashcards developed by the state-wide specialists for Danish, Frisian and Low German at the IQSH and financed by the state of Schleswig-Holstein. Flashcards were also provided to the Danish and Low German model schools. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)
- Between 2019 and 2023, more Frisian teaching and learning materials were published. To accompany the two primary school textbooks *Paul än Emma snååke frasch* and *Paul an Emma snaake fering*, a large amount of additional material (including audio files, worksheets and vocabulary lists) was produced and made available for free download on the IQSH Frisian teaching website.

In 2022, Schleswig-Holstein's minorities commissioner funded the reprinting of 200 copies of the textbook *Paul an Emma snaake fering*. In the 2021/22 school year, English-language materials published by Finkenverlag for primary school teaching were translated by a Frisian teacher into Sylt Frisian. This was done with funding from the IQSH. The publisher also issued a printing permit allowing the translated materials to be used for Frisian teaching at primary schools on the island of Sylt. In autumn 2022, the Ferring Foundation in Alkersum on the island of Föhr published *Diar sweem en müs uun't moolkkoom* (A mouse swam in the

- milk can) – the first in a series of five to six workbooks for teaching Föhr Frisian in the third and fourth grades. (**Schleswig-Holstein**)
- In August 2023, the second workbook in the series *Dibe-dibe-dap! At kikanink snaaket fering* (Dibe-dibe-dap! The rabbit speaks Föhr Frisian) was published for use in the first and second grades at primary schools in Föhr and Amrum, and in day-care centres. This material accompanies 26 episodes of the children’s programme *KiKaninchen*, which were dubbed into Föhr Frisian and released in January 2023 (see *D.V.1.*). This was commissioned by the TV channel KiKa. The printing of the two workbooks was made possible with funding from Schleswig-Holstein’s ministry of education (MBWFK). (**Schleswig-Holstein**)
 - In the 2022/23 school year, a workbook called *Paul an Emma ööwe fering* was created to accompany the textbook *Paul an Emma snaake fering*. The workbook is expected to be published in time for the second half of the school year (February 2024). The production of the workbook will be possible thanks to financial and human resources support from the IQSH, the MBWFK and from Schleswig-Holstein’s minorities commissioner. (**Schleswig-Holstein**)
 - In August 2022, a meeting with the Frisian teachers was held at the initiative of the MBWFK. At that meeting, requirements for teaching materials were identified, in particular for the lower and upper secondary levels. For all school grades, there is a demand for more online materials. In the coming years, the “Nordfriisk liirskap” – the new department created at the North Frisian Institute (Nordfriisk Instituut) – will create the desired materials in various varieties of Frisian, for all school grades, and in analogue and digital form. It will do this in close cooperation with (and under supervision from) the IQSH and the MBWFK. (**Schleswig-Holstein**)
 - As in 2021 and 2022, the MBWFK will continue to provide funding in 2023 for the production of teaching materials in regional and minority languages. The state-wide specialist for Frisian at the IQSH regularly offers a certification course for teachers with Frisian language skills in order to train and attract more Frisian teachers. The state-wide specialist for Frisian at the IQSH maintains close contact with the Europa-Universität Flensburg in order to help trainee teachers who

have a Frisian certificate, and are looking for a trainee placement, to identify which schools require Frisian teachers. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)

- When it comes to trainee placement applications, both the schools and the trainee teachers can refer to the school's need for a Frisian teacher and/or explain that they have the relevant skills. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)
- In January 2023, the Europa-Universität Flensburg launched an initiative to increase the number of students studying Frisian by informing school leavers about its Frisian degree course. The university did this in cooperation with the MBWFK. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)
- The MBWFK is in contact with the secretariat and infocentre of the Region Sønderjylland-Schleswig (centre for cross-border cooperation) and the province of Fryslân (Friesland) in order to assess how existing teaching expertise can be used to produce Frisian teaching materials. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)
- At the Europa-Universität Flensburg, Frisian is to be offered as a subsidiary subject from the spring semester of 2024. At the University of Kiel, the professorship of Frisian studies is currently vacant and has not yet been filled despite two rounds of interviews. The post is soon to be advertised once again; meanwhile the teaching programme is maintained by other staff. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)

c. Data, statistics or information to assess the impact of the measures taken

- Data on the number of schools teaching Frisian and on numbers of pupils, teachers and Frisian lessons given are recorded on an annual basis in Schleswig-Holstein. In the 2022/23 school year in Schleswig-Holstein, 809 pupils were taught 80 lessons of Frisian per week at nine public schools and two schools of the Danish minority. This number of pupils represents an increase compared to the previous year. The statistics on Frisian lessons in the school years 2021/22 and 2022/23 are set out in the Annex. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)
- In 2022, two people obtained their certificate to teach Frisian from the Europa-Universität Flensburg; three people are currently still enrolled on the certificate course. Regarding Frisian studies at the University of Kiel, 17 people are enrolled on the two-subject bachelor's degree course; one person is taking Frisian as a

subsidiary subject; and four people are enrolled on the two-subject master's degree course. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)

3. Sater Frisian teaching

The Advisory Committee encourages the authorities to further expand the offer of Sater Frisian teaching in day care centres, schools and at university. (Nos. 219 – 223)

a. Policy and/or legislation implementing the recommendation

- On 21 September 2017, the state parliament of Lower Saxony adopted a resolution to “consolidate and expand the promotion of Low German and Sater Frisian”. The motion was carried by the votes of all parliamentary groups. This resolution provided the basis for comprehensive support in terms of staff and funding, which is now having a positive impact on support for schools and language acquisition at schools. (*Lower Saxony*)

b. Practical measures and other relevant developments in implementing the recommendation

- The state of Lower Saxony would like to point out that
 - since the beginning of the 2022/23 school year, the four-volume Sater Frisian textbook *Seeltersk Lopt* has been available to Sater Frisian schools; Lower Saxony's ministry of education provided 42,000 euros in funding for the preparation and publication of the new textbook;
 - as part of the programme *Startklar in die Zukunft* (Ready for the future), additional teaching materials for Sater Frisian were developed and made available to all schools via the education website³⁵. (*Lower Saxony*)
- As of 2024, teachers will again be able to take a certification course which was first offered in 2018, allowing them to learn Sater Frisian as well as Low German. (*Lower Saxony*)

³⁵ https://www.nibis.de/materialien-fuer-das-fach-niederdeutsch_15841 (as at 12 October 2023)

- Students in the third year of the bachelor’s programme at the Police Academy of Lower Saxony (Polizeiakademie Niedersachsen) have the option to take language courses of their choice. The language courses serve as an alternative to completing a year of work experience abroad. The students are responsible for the courses they choose. In 2022, a Low German language course was held at the University of Oldenburg. In 2023, the courses have not been finally selected. In 2020 and 2021, students always had the opportunity to take language courses in Low German or, for example, Sater Frisian – even during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Police Academy of Lower Saxony highly values these language courses and encourages its students to take them. (*Lower Saxony*)
- c. Data, statistics or information to assess the impact of the measures taken**
- Sater Frisian lessons are currently provided at three of the four primary schools in the municipality of Saterland and at two secondary schools (lower secondary level). The schools receive 17 additional credited teaching hours for Sater Frisian lessons. (*Lower Saxony*)

4. Sorbian teaching

The Advisory Committee strongly encourages the authorities to continue and further enlarge their investment in a broad variety of measures aimed to increase the learning of the Sorbian languages, among those to address the shortage of Sorbian language teachers and early childhood educators. (Nos. 224 – 230)

- a. Policy and/or legislation implementing the recommendation**
- In August 2016, Saxony’s cabinet, in implementing the constitutional mandate for the protection of the Sorbian language and culture, approved a report by Saxony’s ministry of education on the situation of schools and the recruitment of teachers for schools in the Sorbian areas. This report includes a forecast on numbers of teachers required as well as a package of measures for recruitment, which is implemented on an ongoing basis. In the 2022/23 school year, Sorbian teaching was fully guaranteed at the 16 schools working under the 2plus approach. (*Saxony*)

b. Practical measures and other relevant developments in implementing the recommendation

- The state of Brandenburg has made various efforts to increase the number of Sorbian/Wendish teachers and of childcare workers with Lower Sorbian language skills. For example, incentives are increasingly provided for students undergoing regular teacher training in the subject of Sorbian/Wendish. Incentives range from declarations of intent and guarantees of employment (signed in consultation with the relevant school office) to the “state teacher scholarship” (Land-lehrerstipendium), for which Sorbian/Wendish students can apply. Students who receive this scholarship are supported financially and also benefit from accompanying programmes. Furthermore, since February 2021, an annual intensive Lower Sorbian language course for teachers has been held, which is also open to childcare workers. Those who complete the course then have the option (depending on the nature of their training course) to complete a teacher training master’s degree in Sorbian/Wendish at the University of Leipzig. (*Brandenburg*)
- Since 2019, additional funding of several hundred thousand euros has been available under the state programme for the promotion of child day-care centres that teach Lower Sorbian. This is to compensate for the high costs of staff, qualifications and material resources, and thus to increase the attractiveness of working in this field. This programme also finances language courses for childcare workers. The funding programme is not only available to child day-care centres where Sorbian/Wendish is already taught (whether by immersion or traditional approaches). The programme is also open to daycare centres that did not previously offer such language teaching but wish to introduce it in the future. (*Brandenburg*)
- Since 2022, the rural district of Spree-Neiße/Wokrejs Sprjewja-Nysa has awarded a scholarship for students to study Sorbian/Wendish; in return, scholars commit to teaching Sorbian/Wendish in schools after graduating. (*Brandenburg*)
- In order to ensure the supply of trained childcare workers with Sorbian language skills, an officially recognised childcare training programme (“Sozialpädagogik”)

has been established at the Sorbian Technical School for Social Welfare (Sor-bische Fachschule für Sozialwesen), part of the Vocational Training Centre in Bautzen (Berufliches Schulzentrum; BSZ). It is mandatory for all trainees in the programme to attend Sorbian language lessons at the appropriate level. Trainees also learn about Sorbian language, history and culture. In the school years of 2017/18 to 2021/22, a total of 321 people successfully completed this training programme. In the 2022/23 school year, a total of 61 people are preparing for their final examinations. The BSZ Bautzen is still advertising the training programme, e.g. on the school's website in German and Sorbian. (**Saxony**)

- According to the Social Code (Sozialgesetzbuch; SGB) Book VIII, the organisation of child and youth welfare services, including support for children in daycare centres, is a compulsory and independent municipal task. Responsibility for planning and ensuring the provision of sufficient daycare to meet demand lies with local youth welfare organisations. In view of this, the state of Saxony has no information as to whether the number of graduates is sufficient to meet the demand for childcare workers with language skills in Sorbian. (**Saxony**)

5. Romani teaching

The Advisory Committee encourages the authorities to remain open towards supporting the teaching of Romani in whatever form is considered adequate by representatives of Sinti and Roma. (Nos. 231 – 234)

There is currently no Romani teaching in schools in the **Free Hanseatic City of Bremen**.

a. Policy and/or legislation implementing the recommendation

- The Free State of Bavaria is guided by the position of Bavaria's Association of German Sinti and Roma (Landesverband Deutscher Sinti und Roma), which sees no need for Romani teaching in public educational institutions, as the language is traditionally passed on exclusively within families. Members of the minority community define themselves as Germans, whose language is essentially German. (**Bavaria**)

- Please refer to the comments in section *C.I.7*. In addition, Rhineland-Palatinate's Ministry of the Interior and Sport (Ministerium des Innern und für Sport) reports that discussions on this issue are being held with the state's Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma, Landesverband Rheinland-Pfalz e. V.). (***Rhineland-Palatinate***)
- The protection and preservation of the Romani language as an expression of identity and cultural heritage is enshrined in Article 4 ("Language, Education and Culture") of the framework agreement signed on 13 April 2022 between the state government and Saarland's Association of German Sinti and Roma (Deutscher Sinti und Roma Saarland e. V.). Support for the Association's management office and advisory service also implies support for the Romani language in line with the aims of the Language Charter. (***Saarland***)
- Furthermore, the state government of Saarland is committed (under Article 4 of the framework agreement) to improving education for young and adult Sinti and Roma in order to ensure equal opportunities for them at all levels of education (daycare centres, schools and universities). The additional measures and projects developed by Saarland's Association of German Sinti and Roma for the individual levels of education are supported within the limits of financial resources. The state of Saarland calls on individual education providers to work together with representatives of the Association on measures and projects. (***Saarland***)
- Schleswig-Holstein's Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V. - Landesverband Schleswig-Holstein), as the central representative of the minority community, still does not wish Romani to be taught at schools. The Association recognises that the Romani language is at risk and has started to develop its own projects to strengthen the transmission and preservation of Romani within the minority community. (***Schleswig-Holstein***)
- In Thuringia, no classes are held in pupils' native languages. Accordingly, there are no trained teachers for Romani.
Upon request, teaching could be organised during the school day. (***Thuringia***)

b. Practical measures and other relevant developments in implementing the recommendation

- In Baden-Württemberg, the Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma, Landesverband Baden-Württemberg e.V.) has set up a language school for Romani, which is funded under the Association's treaty with the state government of Baden-Württemberg (see *section C.I.1.*). In 2021 alone, the school offered 20 language courses. In the coming years, the language school will be expanded to include training for language teachers. In addition, a project called "Romani as an identity language" (*Romanes als Identitätssprache*), funded by the EVZ Foundation (Stiftung Erinnerung, Verantwortung und Zukunft), is working to create a comprehensive curriculum for the Sinti variety of Romani as an identity language, based on an established system of curricular for second and foreign languages. (***Baden-Württemberg***)
- The Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg promotes the schooling of Sinti and Roma using a specific approach (see *section D.VII.2.b.*). Currently, 11 members of the Sinti and Roma community are working as school social workers and educational advisers in schools in Hamburg. Some of them also teach Romani as part of their duties, depending on the school in question. (***Hamburg***)
- The "Schaworalle" (Hello children) child day-care centre in Frankfurt am Main is attended exclusively by Roma children and provides services in day-care centres and schools all the way up to school-leaving certificate level. Nearby, there is a playgroup run by the same organisation with ten places ("Jek, Dui, Trin" – meaning one, two, three).

The 2022 annual report states that language teaching and promotion is an important area of action for the organisation. The teaching is done on a bilingual basis. This ensures that children also learn German. Romani, their native language, is the main language. Providing child-care in Romani and resolving conflicts and problems in the children's native language is crucial because some children have insufficient German language skills, but particularly because language is part of their cultural identity. This is essential for the overall strategy. Romani-speaking staff are role models, create trust and self-confidence, convey a sense of safety

and offer children the possibility to express their experiences in their native language. According to its statutes, “Schaworalle” (a school initiative) cooperates with Roma and non-Roma on equal terms. This makes Roma children feel secure and gives them the opportunity to articulate and reflect on experiences that are specific to their lives.

Schaworalle has six teachers on secondment from the state school office for the city of Frankfurt am Main, four primary school teachers and two lower secondary school teachers. For the secondary level there is also a part-time member of staff available to provide extra help to those who need it during lessons. These teachers are assigned to the Schaworalle cooperative schools: the Comenius primary school and the Ludwig-Börne secondary general school. All primary-level children taking part in the scheme are officially enrolled at the Comenius school and all secondary-level pupils are enrolled at the Ludwig-Börne school. The schools therefore keep files on participating pupils, and the pupils receive school reports/certificates on the letterhead of the school in question. The school reports/certificates also specify that these pupils were taught under the Schaworalle scheme. In this way, Schaworalle is formally and legally recognised as a place of instruction. (*Hesse*)

- In the federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia, teaching in the pupils’ native language is an essential part of integration policy. Such teaching takes place at primary and lower secondary level and currently comprises 30 languages, including Romani. With this kind of teaching, native language teachers not only promote pupils’ ethnic, cultural and/or linguistic identity, but also act as a bridge between parents and schools in a kind of joint educational partnership. (*North Rhine-Westphalia*)
- Please refer to the comments in section C.I.7. (*Rhineland-Palatinate*)
- Schleswig-Holstein’s Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V. - Landesverband Schleswig-Holstein) has started translating into Romani the Low German textbook *Paul un Emma snackt platt plattdüütsch* (a primary school book published by the Institute for Low German). The aim of this

is to allow Sinti and Roma children to use their minority language to talk about scenes from their everyday lives. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)

- For schools in Thuringia, Romani language and cultural mediators are available for cooperation with parents and schools under a cooperation agreement with SprIntpool Thuringia. This work is financed by Thuringia's Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (Ministerium für Bildung, Jugend und Sport; TMBJS). (*Thuringia*)
- The TMBJS cooperates with Thuringia's RomnoKher Association (RomnoKher Thüringen e.V.) on educational issues concerning Roma children in Thuringia. This happens in the context of talks with the state's education offices on issues of migration, particularly in connection with the arrival of many Roma families from Ukraine and the prevention of educational disadvantage. (*Thuringia*)

VII. Article 15

1. Participation in public affairs – consultative and elected bodies

The Advisory Committee strongly encourages the authorities to establish mechanisms for Sinti and Roma to effectively participate in and influence decision-making on all matters affecting them at federal level and in all Länder. (Nos. 235 – 242)

Under a new process by which the **Free State of Saxony** aims to better represent the interests of the Sinti and Roma as a recognised national minority, no agreement has yet been reached on which persons to appoint as representatives to a committee. (The process only began in 2021.)

In the absence of representation for German Sinti and Roma in the **Free State of Thuringia**, so far no opportunity for representation by committee has arisen.

a. Policy and/or legislation implementing the recommendation

- The consultative committees and the implementation conference should be mentioned here as important mechanisms to ensure opportunities for full participation and influence on the part of the national minority of Sinti and Roma (see comments in section *D.II.1a*). (**Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community; BMI**)
- The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ) supports Sinti and Roma participation in different areas and involves them in committees. Examples include the centre for the preservation of the graves of Sinti and Roma persecuted under the Nazi regime; the (further) development of the “Live Democracy!” (*Demokratie leben!*) programme; the cabinet committee to combat right-wing extremism and racism; and the development of the Federal Government strategy “Working together to promote democracy and to fight against extremism”, which seeks to promote a strong, resilient democracy and an open and diverse society. (**Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth; BMFSFJ**)

- The national contact point for Sinti and Roma (NRCP) is in continuing dialogue with the Sinti and Roma and their organisations. (***Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth; BMFSFJ***)
- The Council to address matters concerning the German Sinti and Roma in Baden-Württemberg (Rat für die Angelegenheiten der deutschen Sinti und Roma in Baden-Württemberg) is a body in which members of the minority community, representatives of various departments, members of the state parliament and a representative of local associations discuss minority concerns. This council, which meets at least once a year, has played a key role in integrating the minority's perspective; in promoting minority participation in projects and measures carried out by the state government; and in strengthening confidence. (***Baden-Württemberg***)
- With regard to this recommendation, the Free State of Bavaria refers to the comments in section *C.I.1.* concerning the establishment of a permanent working group between Bavaria's Association of German Sinti and Roma (Landesverband Deutscher Sinti und Roma) and the Bavarian state government. (***Bavaria***)
- In *Berlin*, the statutory Advisory Council for Matters Relating to Roma and Sinti (Beirat für Angelegenheiten der Roma und Sinti) is expected to be established in 2023 in accordance with section 18 of the Berlin Act on Participation (*Partizipationsgesetz, PartMigG*). This follows an extensive participatory process with representatives of the Sinti and Roma community. The Advisory Council's mission is to advise and support the Berlin Senate on all matters relating to the equal participation of Roma and Sinti. The Advisory Council is located in the Senate Department for Labour, Social Services, Gender Equality, Integration, Diversity and Anti-Discrimination (Senatsverwaltung für Arbeit, Soziales, Gleichstellung, Integration, Vielfalt und Antidiskriminierung; SenASGIVA) in the Berlin State Office for Equal Treatment and Against Discrimination (Landesstelle für Gleichbehandlung – gegen Diskriminierung; LADS). (***Berlin***)
- In its framework agreement with Bremen's Association of Sinti and Roma, the Bremen Senate has committed itself to promoting the participation of Sinti and

Roma living in Bremen in cultural, social, economic and public affairs. This includes creating conditions that make it easier for Sinti and Roma in Bremen to express, preserve and develop their identity. (**Bremen**)

- Participation in public affairs by consultative and/or elected bodies is to take place as part of the joint overall strategy to combat antigypsyism and promote equal participation of Sinti and Roma in Hamburg.

As part of the overall strategy to combat antigypsyism and promote equal participation of Sinti and Roma in Hamburg, the Hamburg Senate attaches the utmost importance to working in partnership with civil society and ensuring the participation of civil society. It is therefore of particular importance to the Senate to draw up the overall strategy in partnership and on an equal footing, with the broadest possible involvement of civil society. The aim is to provide the best possible picture of different perspectives.

Therefore, the first priority for the Hamburg Senate is to coordinate all measures on the basis of a trusting relationship (which must be built) and in close partnership with representatives of the Sinti and Roma community. Such an approach is very time-consuming, but it is absolutely necessary that concrete processes and measures only go ahead once they have been agreed and decided jointly between the partners.

The form and process of civil society participation in the development of the strategy were also discussed with civil society representatives in order to ensure a broad participation process. As a first step, open hearings will be held to allow as many people as possible the chance to present their respective interests. In a second step, the process of developing the strategy will be overseen by a committee of diverse members. Events on individual topics will be organised together with the associations, with the participation of the relevant competent authorities. (**Hamburg**)

- We refer to the comments in sections *D.XI. and E.XI.* of Germany's *Fifth Report on the Framework Convention.* (**Rhineland-Palatinate**)

- On 18 April 2013, the state parliament of Schleswig-Holstein created a committee for German Sinti and Roma affairs in Schleswig-Holstein, chaired by the president of the state parliament. The tasks of this committee are to oversee the implementation of the Framework Convention and the Language Charter with respect to the interests of German Sinti and Roma in the state of Schleswig-Holstein; to improve the political participation of Sinti and Roma in the state; and to act as an inter-departmental coordination and clearing centre for the interests of Sinti and Roma. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)
 - According to section 21 (1) no. 17 of Schleswig-Holstein's Spatial Planning Act (*Landesplanungsgesetz; LaplaG*), the minorities commissioner may propose representatives of the Danish minority, the Frisian minority and the German Sinti and Roma minority to sit on the Spatial Planning Council (*Landesplanungsrat*). The Spatial Planning Council is responsible for advising the state planning authority on key issues with regard to spatial planning. In the state's 20th parliamentary term, the minorities commissioner has again exercised the right to propose these representatives. And accordingly, one representative of each group was appointed to the Spatial Planning Council. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)
- b. Practical measures and other relevant developments in implementing the recommendation**
- In June 2021, the state of Schleswig-Holstein presented an anti-racism action plan called "Different together – promoting diversity, tolerance and respect" (*Gemeinsam verschieden – für Vielfalt, Toleranz und Respekt*) (see comments in section *D.II.3*). The drafting of this plan involved close dialogue with representatives from civil society, including Schleswig-Holstein's Association of German Sinti and Roma (*Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V. – Landesverband Schleswig-Holstein*). The association provided the perspective of those affected by antigypsyism. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)

2. Participation in public affairs – diversity within minorities

The Advisory Committee strongly encourages the authorities to create inclusive consultation processes which facilitate and take into account different perspectives within national minorities. (Nos. 243 – 247)

The **Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (BMI)** sees itself as a neutral point of contact for national minorities that takes into account different perspectives within those minority communities. For example, as a point of contact for the national minority of Sinti and Roma, the BMI holds regular meetings with the Federal Union of German Sinti and Roma (Bundesvereinigung der Sinti und Roma; BVSR) – an umbrella organisation founded in 2022. This is in addition to its long-standing meetings with the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma (Zentralrat der Deutschen Sinti und Roma e. V.) and the Sinti Alliance of Germany (Sinti Allianz e. V.).

The **federal state of Brandenburg** notes the following: state law still explicitly provides for the possibility of several Sorbian/Wendish umbrella organisations; candidacy for the Council for Sorbian/Wendish Affairs in the state parliament (Rat für Angelegenheiten der Sorben/Wenden; RASW) and participation in the electoral committee of this council is not linked to membership of or support for certain organisations; and state electoral law explicitly exempts Sorbian/Wendish parties from the requirement to reach the five-percent threshold for parliamentary representation. In the context of the work of the Sorbian/Wendish commissioners at municipal and state level, and that of the RASW, everyone has the right to be heard, can address issues directly with the relevant bodies and contribute to discussions. The Sorbian/Wendish Action Network (Sorbisches/wendisches Aktionsnetzwerk), which is currently coordinated by the state, also involves Sorbian/Wendish stakeholders who are not members of the Sorbian/Wendish umbrella organisation.

The **Free State of Saxony** states that the *Serbski Sejm* (“Sorbian parliament”) is part of Sorbian civil society which brings its voice to the public discourse. However, the *Serbski Sejm* lacks a legal basis under public law. There is no obligation under international law, Germany’s Basic Law (*Grundgesetz*), the Saxon constitution or any other legal acts to create or recognise a parliament as a representation of the Sorbs.

Section 5 of the Saxon Sorbs Act (*Sächsisches Sorbengesetz*) provides that “the interests of citizens of Sorbian ethnicity may be represented at state, regional and municipal level by an umbrella organisation of Sorbian associations”. An interpretation of this provision to the ef-

fect that the interests of Sorbian citizens may be represented at state, regional and municipal level by a legal entity other than an umbrella organisation would go beyond the scope of the wording of the law and would not be valid.

As explained above, the interests of citizens of Sorbian ethnicity can be represented at state, regional and municipal level by an umbrella organisation of Sorbian associations (under section 5 of the Saxon Sorbs Act). Currently, the only umbrella organisation of Sorbian associations in the *Free State of Saxony* is the Domowina federation. It represents local groups, district associations and numerous other Sorbian associations and individuals. Domowina currently has some 7,500 members. This ensures a high level of diversity within the federation. The Serbski Sejm has been offered the opportunity to speak at the general meeting of the Domowina federation or to represent its interests at other meetings. Furthermore, Serbski Sejm was offered membership of the Domowina federation, but did not accept this. Members of the Council for Sorbian Affairs (Rat für sorbische Angelegenheiten), which advises the Saxon state parliament and state government on matters affecting the rights of the Sorbian people, are proposed to the Saxon state parliament by the Sorbian associations and by the municipalities of the Sorbian areas. Prior to the election of the Council for Sorbian Affairs, the Saxon state parliament publishes a request for nominations in the official state journal.

From the point of view of the Saxon state government, the current procedure has been working well.

From the point of view of the Saxon state government, the state of Brandenburg and the German Federal Government, any fundamental changes in the representation of the interests of the Sorbian people would first have to be clarified among the Sorbian associations themselves. If there is a clear and majority position on the need for changes, these could be discussed and potentially implemented in the wider social and political sphere.

a. Policy and/or legislation implementing the recommendation

- The National Contact Point for Sinti and Roma (Nationale Kontaktstelle Sinti und Roma; NRCP) is in close contact with the Sinti and Roma and their organisations and takes account of their different perspectives. (*Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth; BMFSFJ*)

- With regard to this recommendation, the Free State of Bavaria refers to the comments in section *C.I.1.* concerning the establishment of a permanent working group between Bavaria's Association of German Sinti and Roma (Landesverband Deutscher Sinti und Roma) and the Bavarian state government. (**Bavaria**)
- Bremen, with its "Framework concept for social participation and diversity" (*Rahmenkonzept gesellschaftliche Teilhabe und Diversity*), provides various joint formats for participation between administrative departments and civil society organisations, to which representatives of national minorities are also invited. These participatory formats were launched in June 2023 by the senate's health and social affairs departments, which invited various civil society representatives to exchange views on how to integrate civil society perspectives in the areas of health, care and the elderly. (**Bremen**)
- The federal state of Rhineland-Palatinate refers to its comments in section *C.I.7.* Project funding is intended to provide opportunities for financing and participation to other associations and initiatives that work to promote the interests of the national minority of German Sinti and Roma. (**Rhineland-Palatinate**)
- In 2022, the Sinti Union Schleswig-Holstein association contacted the state government and parliament of Schleswig-Holstein. The Neumünster-based association presented itself and its work in discussions with various ministries, the minorities commissioner, the minister-president and the president of the state parliament. Since then, the association has been invited to attend meetings of the committee for German Sinti and Roma affairs in Schleswig-Holstein's state parliament. (**Schleswig-Holstein**)
- In its 2023 budget, the state government made a provision for the funding of a management office for the Sinti Union Schleswig-Holstein association. The aim of the funding is to help this minority association to go about its business and represent the interests of the minority community. (The same is true of funding for the Association of German Sinti and Roma.) In 2023, for the first time, Sinti Union Schleswig-Holstein received funding of 60,000 euros for its work. (**Schleswig-Holstein**)

- Furthermore, not only the president of the Frisian Council but also other representatives of the Frisian ethnic community are represented at the state parliament's committee for ethnic Frisian affairs. Thus, the Frisian ethnic community has diverse representation at this committee. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)

b. Practical measures and other relevant developments in implementing the recommendation

- At working level, the state ministry responsible for national minorities is in contact with both competing representations (the Association and the Council) of German Sinti and Roma in Berlin-Brandenburg, and with the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma. The contracting party for direct cooperation remains the Berlin-Brandenburg Association of German Sinti and Roma (Landesverband Deutscher Sinti und Roma Berlin-Brandenburg e.V.) (*Brandenburg*)

3. Socio-economic participation of Sorbs in Lusatia

The Advisory Committee calls on the authorities to take all necessary measures in close consultation with Sorbian representatives to ensure that the upcoming structural change in Lusatia following the discontinuation of lignite mining is used as a potential to enhance the attractiveness of the region for young Sorbs both in socioeconomic and cultural terms. (Nos. 248 – 253)

a. Policy and/or legislation implementing the recommendation

- On 14 August 2020, the Structural Reinforcement Act for Mining Regions (*Strukturstärkungsgesetz Kohleregionen; StStG*) entered into force, implementing the recommendations of the Commission on Growth, Structural Change and Employment (Kommission "Wachstum, Strukturwandel und Beschäftigung"). Article 1 of the StStG contains the new Coal Regions Investment Act (*Investitionsgesetz Kohleregionen; InvKG*). Lignite mining regions will receive up to 14 billion euros in funding until 2038 for particularly significant investments by federal states and municipalities. In addition, the Federal Government will provide support to the regions under its own responsibility with funding of up to 26 billion euros until 2038.

Under section 17 no. 31 of the InvKG, federal funding is available to promote the preservation and development of the language, culture and traditions of the

Sorbian people as a national minority. See also the comments in sections *C.I.7. and D.XI.3.b. (Federal Government)*

- Under the StStG, the state of Brandenburg is also actively involved in and supports the development of further projects. In doing so, it cooperates with Sorbian/Wendish associations and institutions and does not carry out any measures in relation to Sorbs/Wends without them. (**Brandenburg**)
- In accordance with section 4 of the InvKG, the Free State of Saxony provides federal funding of 40.45 million euros for the construction of the “Sorbian Knowledge Forum at the Lauenareal” in Bautzen. This combines under one roof the new building for the Sorbian Institute (Sorbisches Institut) – which includes the Sorbian Cultural Archives (Sorbisches Kulturarchiv) and the Sorbian Central Library (Sorbisches Zentralbibliothek) – and the Sorbian Museum (Sorbisches Museum). (**Saxony**)

b. Practical measures and other relevant developments in implementing the recommendation

- Under section 17 no. 31 of the Coal Regions Investment Act (InvKG), the Foundation for the Sorbian People will receive federal funding of up to 19 million euros by the end of 2031 for the implementation of measures to preserve the Sorbian language, culture and tradition in the relevant areas of Brandenburg. Funding will now be available for the following projects in the state of Brandenburg based on the funding guidelines “Sorbian language and culture as an aspect of structural change”, which were adopted by the foundation’s board on 2 March 2022:
 - “Establishing a department for regional development and the protection of minorities as part of the Sorbian Institute”
 - “Digital archive of Sorbian and Lusatian language and culture (documenting and enhancing the value of cultural heritage)” – the Sorbian Institute
 - “Enhancing the value of intangible cultural heritage in the German-Slavic context” – the Domowina Lower Lusatian project
 - “Pilot project: Master plan to revitalise the Lower Sorbian language, including the development of innovative forms of language teaching to expand regional multilingualism” – the Domowina Lower Lusatian project

- “Pilot project to develop Sorbian cultural tourism”
- “Expansion of the Sorbian-German film network “Łužycofilm” – the Foundation for the Sorbian People

The projects listed above were chosen by Brandenburg’s Ministry of Science, Research and Culture (MWFK), which is responsible for the national minority of Sorbs and Wends in Brandenburg, together with Lower Sorbian civil society representatives. The projects were then recommended to the Federal Ministry of Interior and Community (BMI) for implementation in the state of Brandenburg. (***Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community; BMI***)

- Under section 17 no. 31 of the Coal Region Investment Act (InvKG), the Foundation for the Sorbian People will also receive federal funding of up to 42.5 million euros by the end of 2038 for the implementation of measures to preserve the Sorbian language, culture and tradition in the relevant areas of Saxony.

The funding guidelines “Sorbian language and culture as an aspect of structural change” for projects in the Free State of Saxony were drawn up by the Foundation for the Sorbian People and adopted by the foundation’s board on 2 March 2022. It is up to the foundation’s board to decide which projects should receive funding based on these funding guidelines. On 24 March 2022, the foundation’s board decided to convene an advisory committee. That committee is now drawing up a recommendation on facilitating the selection of projects for funding. The advisory committee consists of the following nine members:

- a representative of the rural district of Bautzen
- a representative of the rural district of Görlitz
- a representative of the Cultural Area of Upper Lusatia–Lower Silesia (Kulturraum Oberlausitz-Niederschlesien)
- a representative of Saxony’s Association of Cultural and Creative Industries (Landesverbandes der Kultur- und Kreativwirtschaft Sachsen)
- four representatives of the Sorbian people from the Free State of Saxony
- a representative from the Board of the Foundation for the Sorbian People, from the Free State of Saxony

Currently, the following measures are being implemented based on the funding guidelines for projects in the state of Saxony:

- “Sorbian experiMINT campus in Radibor – creation and development of an attractive Sorbian language environment outside of the family and educational institutions in the municipality of Radibor” – the Sorbian parents’ initiative, Radibor
- “Sorbian_Media_Innovation – promoting media skills in the Sorbish language” – the Sorbian Schools Association
- “Building a network for the management of regional identity and language” – the Domowina association of Lusatian Sorbs
- “Feasibility study – pilot project for culture across state borders in Lusatia – languages – cultural cycling route ‘Serbske impresije / Sorbian Impressions’” – the Sorbian cultural tourism association
- “Digitalisation centre” – the Sorbian Institute in Bautzen
- “The KRABAT experience – strengthening the economy and tourism in bilingual Lusatia” – the KRABAT association
- “Regeneration – reproduction – innovation – promoting the Sorbian cultural and creative economy across state borders” (***Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community; BMI***)

VIII. Articles 17 and 18

1. Bilateral and cross-border relations

The Advisory Committee welcomes the authorities' efforts with respect to bi- and multilateral co-operation and reiterates the importance of transfrontier contacts in particular for the Danish minority.

a. Policy and/or legislation implementing the recommendation

- In the 2022 Joint Action Plan for Future German-Danish Cooperation (Gemeinsame Aktionsplan für die künftige deutsch-dänische Zusammenarbeit) (see comments in section *C.I.3.*), it was agreed that a working group be established to address obstacles to mobility and coexistence in the shared border region, and to propose solutions to this. The first meeting of this working group took place in Flensburg on 25 April 2023. (**Federal Foreign Office; AA**)
- In 2022, a representative of the state of Rhineland-Palatinate took part in a training course involving German and French participants on the subject of “Roma in the Upper Rhine area” (*Roma am Oberrhein*) and reported on the approaches and measures taken in Rhineland-Palatinate. (**Rhineland-Palatinate**)
- In Schleswig-Holstein, a stable structure of cooperation between minorities and their organisations, as well as the state government, administrations and parliaments at state, district and municipal level, has developed in recent decades. The particular experience of the German-Danish border region, the close partnership with the neighbour Denmark and the coexistence of the majority and minority populations form the basis for consensus-based minority policy.

In August 2021, in order to further strengthen cross-border relations, the Minister-President of the state of Schleswig-Holstein and the president of the regional council of the Danish region of Syddanmark signed the “Renewal of the Joint Declaration on Regional Cooperation”, which replaced the 2017 Joint Declaration. This new declaration had become necessary as, on the Danish side, the competences of the regions had changed. Both partners stated in the section on “Community-based cooperation”:

“The German and Danish minorities on both sides of the border are a unique element of great value in all areas of cooperation. The work of minority organisations as ‘bridge builders between cultures’ is an important element of cross-border cooperation. The partners wish to continue the participation of minorities in the strategic development of their cooperation.”³⁶ (*Schleswig-Holstein*)

- National measures to contain the COVID-19 pandemic, and in particular the unilateral closures of borders in 2020 and 2021, put a significant burden on cross-border cooperation and coexistence in the border region. The poor communication in the run-up to the measures across the border was a big problem as it created restrictions without warning at short notice. This particularly affected minority groups and cross-border workers. For this reason, the state of Schleswig-Holstein and the region of Syddanmark stated the following in the above-mentioned Joint Declaration:

“The global coronavirus pandemic, which unexpectedly led to the closure of the German-Danish border in 2020 and 2021, is a strong reminder of the importance of maintaining close links and direct contacts across the border. This is the only way to act together quickly and effectively if there is a need to do so.”

The involvement of the associations of the German and Danish minorities and the Frisian ethnic group in the committees of the Sønderjylland-Schleswig region was also maintained in the new agreement between the contracting parties (Syddanmark region, Haderslev municipality, Sønderborg municipality, Aabenraa municipality, Tønder municipality, Flensburg city, Nordfriesland district, Schleswig-Flensburg district) in December 2022. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)

- In 2020, to mark the 100th anniversary of the referendum on redrawing the border between Germany and Denmark, in view of the importance of German-Danish relations for the region, an extensive programme was developed to jointly celebrate this event in the two countries, in the border region and among relevant associations, organisations, universities and other stakeholders. Owing to

³⁶ https://www.schleswig-holstein.de/DE/fachinhalte/D/daenemark_zusammenarbeit/Downloads/gemeinsame_erklaerung_sh_syddanmark.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=1 (as at 12 October 2023)

the pandemic, many of the planned projects and events could not take place. However, in many cases the organisers managed to postpone the activities or hold them in an online format. The organisations of the Danish minority in Schleswig-Holstein played an important role in the planning of the anniversary events. In cooperation with their partners in Denmark, they brought the Danish perspective into the celebration of the 1920 border shift, which was perceived there as a “reunification”. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)

- In view of the anniversary of the referendum on the redrawing of the border and the 2020 German-Danish Year of Cultural Friendship, the German and Danish governments also decided to submit a joint application for UNESCO’s Register of Good Safeguarding Practices on intangible cultural heritage. This joint application, titled “The Danish-German minority model – a framework safeguarding peaceful integration within a diverse region”, was submitted in March 2020 in Paris.

In 2018, a joint application by the Danish minority (SSF) and the German minority (BDN), called “Coexistence of minorities and majorities in the border area between Germany and Denmark”, had already been accepted for the German register of good practices. Schleswig-Holstein’s ministry for education, science and culture encouraged and supported this process at the time. Denmark has also accepted this application for its national register. The application for the international register was developed by Germany and Denmark together with minority organisations. The state of Schleswig-Holstein was involved in this process through its state chancellery. Both the minority and majority communities supported the application in public debates, media reports, letters of support and in expert circles. However, in December 2021, UNESCO’s Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage decided not to accept this application but to refer it back to the requesting states. Nevertheless, the process of cooperation on the application has strengthened mutual understanding in the German-Danish border region and drawn attention to the issues of protection and promotion of minorities. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)

- Until 2022, there were the Interreg projects “Kurskultur 2.0” (of the Sønderjylland-Schleswig region) and “kultKIT” (of the Fehmarn Belt region). These were cultural projects promoting micro-projects in the cultural sector and cultural exchange in the German-Danmark border region under the Interreg V A programme “Germany-Danmark”. In the new Interreg funding period, “Kurskultur 2.0” and “kultKIT” will be replaced by the “Bürgerprojektfonds” (citizen’s project fund), managed by the secretariat and infocentre of the Region Sønderjylland-Schleswig (centre for cross-border cooperation). The transport pool of the “Kurskultur 2.0” project supported active cooperation and exchange between German and Danish children and young people up to the age of 26 and excursions to the neighbouring country; funding from this project also enabled schools in the catchment area to implement micro-projects. In the new funding period, the transport pool will be part of the “Bürgerprojektfonds”. Schools in the catchment area of the Interreg VI A programme “Germany-Denmark” may in future also apply for funding for small-scale projects – not only for exchanges or visits to the neighbouring country. (*Schleswig-Holstein*)

b. Practical measures and other relevant developments in implementing the recommendation

- In the border region, Denmark’s internal border controls, which have been repeatedly in force since 2016, are seen as an obstacle to cross-border cooperation. After repeated bilateral discussions, in April 2023 Denmark softened its renewed enforcement of border controls by the use of drone operations, number plate recognition and inland border patrols. At the same time, bilateral negotiations are ongoing to allow earlier boarding of trains by border police officers to carry out checks on moving trains. (*Federal Foreign Office; AA*)
- Please refer to the comments in section *E.XII.1.* of Germany’s Fifth Report on the Framework Convention. (*Baden-Württemberg*)
- The state of Brandenburg maintains contact with other federal states and selected European regions with minorities; it also supports Sorbian/Wendish associations in their international cooperation, e.g. by promoting the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN). There are intensive working relations with the

Free State of Saxony and other federal states on issues of minorities and linguistic policy. (*Brandenburg*)

- With project funding for the municipality of Saterland (see comments in section *D.III.1*), an online grammar was developed in cooperation with the Fryske Akademy in Leeuwarden in the Netherlands. The Akademy wishes to take its work on Sater Frisian grammar further, and even intends to turn it into a multi-annual project culminating in an academic congress in 2025. The first and second versions of the grammar are available in German. In the planned follow-up phases of the project, the Fryske Akademy also intends to produce an English-language version for the global academic research community. (*Lower Saxony*)
- The Universities of Oldenburg and Groningen (Netherlands) held bilateral workshops last year in Dutch Low Saxon, Low German and Sater Frisian. (*Lower Saxony*)
- Transnational education and international meetings for young people, adults and multipliers take place as part of the educational work of the concentration camp memorial sites at Buchenwald and Mittelbau Dora in Thuringia. For international groups, the Buchenwald memorial site offers educational programmes in different languages. In these programmes, particular attention is paid to the specific questions and expectations of visitors and to individual and collective historical/cultural perceptions. (*Thuringia*)

E. Comments by the associations

The comments by these organisations are included (in their own style) in Germany's current Report on the Framework Convention irrespective of the views held by the Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI), which has editorial responsibility for the report.

I. Comments by the Danish minority



21 September 2023

Dansk Generalsekretariat / JAC

Contact details: Generalsekretär Jens A. Christiansen

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Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in Germany

Comments by the Danish minority on the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Advisory Committee of the Council of Europe on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in Germany, as at 21 September 2023.

The Danish minority, represented by the main cultural organisation Sydslesvigsk Forening e.V. (SSF), Sydslesvigsk Vælgerforening (SSW) and Dansk Skoleforening for Sydslesvig e.V. (the Danish schools association), is grateful for the opportunity to respond to the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Advisory Committee of the Council of Europe on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in the Federal Republic of Germany.

The Danish minority welcomes the positive developments in recent years regarding the minorities policy of the Federal Government and the state of Schleswig-Holstein.

Comments on the Articles relevant to the Danish minority:

Article 3: Scope of application - citizenship criterion

The Danish minority welcomes the flexible approach regarding citizenship for the Danish minority.

Article 4: Federal responsibility for the protection of national minorities

The Danish minority supports the recommendation of the Advisory Committee. The minority supports the draft resolution on adding an article on national

minorities and ethnic groups to the Basic Law of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Article 5: Promotion of national minority cultures

The Danish minority understands the perspective of the Advisory Committee.

We welcome the project funds made available by the Federal Government. However, it should be noted that the annual amount of 150,000 euros in federal funding for culture has not been adjusted in the last 20 years. The amount of funding from the state of Schleswig-Holstein, on the other hand, has constantly increased over the past three to four years.

Article 9: National minorities in TV and radio broadcasting

We support this recommendation. As regards the media, the Danish minority is of the view that the public service broadcaster Norddeutscher Rundfunk (NDR) has an obligation to include the Danish minority language in its programming. The South Schleswig Association (SSF) therefore very much welcomes the fact that the new NDR broadcasting agreement (NDR-StV) includes an undertaking to that end. The state governments of Schleswig-Holstein, Hamburg, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania and Lower Saxony have agreed that regional and minority languages will be better taken into account in future.

The Danish minority believes it should have its own representative on the NDR broadcasting board to communicate its interests. On the positive side, since 2016, minorities have been given the opportunity to be represented on the ZDF Television Council.

The greater objective is continued promotion of the Danish language, and we would like to encourage funding for outreach work by the minority groups and (for instance) for *Flensburg Avis*, the daily newspaper of the Danish minority.

In the German-Danish border area, the daily newspaper *Der Nordschleswiger* of the German minority in Denmark has, for years, been sponsored by both the German authorities and the Danish public authorities. However, *Flensburg Avis* receives financial support only from Denmark. There is no cross-border equality here, which is a cornerstone of minority policy in the German-Danish border area.

Article 10: Use of minority languages in contact with

administrative authorities

We welcome this recommendation. The Danish minority refers to the State Administration Act (*Landesverwaltungsgesetz; LVwG*) in Schleswig-Holstein and demands of the German state that documents in Danish be recognised by the tax office.

Article 11: Legislation governing names

Following several announcements to this effect, legislation governing names is now to be liberalised. This is to include specific names traditional among autochthonous minorities in Germany, and the SSF very much welcomes this.

Closely linked to traditional names among autochthonous minorities in Germany is the use of diacritical characters and special letters in typical first names or surnames (in the case of Danish, these are: Å, Æ, Ø).

Under current legislation, the use of these letters in names among minorities is possible only through a change of name under the Act on Name Changes by Minorities (Minderheiten-Namensänderungsgesetz).

It would be a huge step towards equality if it were possible to register a child at birth with a name containing diacritical marks and special letters of the languages of Germany's four autochthonous minorities.

It is also desirable to incorporate the Act on Name Changes by Minorities into the general part of the Civil Code (Bürgerliches Gesetzbuch; BGB). The Act is largely unknown among civil servants. And this often results in unjustified refusals, longer procedures and frustration among the parties involved. This situation would change if the Act were incorporated into the BGB. The introduction of double names without the need for hyphens will make it easier for members of the Danish minority to use middle names according to Danish tradition. This applies in particular to the possibility of giving children a name made up of the parents' surname and an accompanying name (e.g. the birth name of one of the parents).

However, further liberalisation would have been desirable in this area too: for example, the option to use the names of other close relatives (e.g. grandparents) as accompanying names for children.

The Danish minority welcomes the options that have been opened for members of the Sorbian community. However, these options often apply only to typical minority names or are conditional upon providing proof of such traditions. This contradicts the right of individuals to identify themselves as members of a national minority, as protected by the Council of Europe's Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. Consideration should therefore be given to waiving any requirement of proof of minority tradition or origin of names in subsequent amendments to the law.

Article 12: Education about national minorities

In view of its own school system, the Danish minority strongly supports this recommendation/demand. This has already been implemented in the Danish minority's school curricula. But, through pupil representatives, the minority is constantly faced with a lack of knowledge about this issue, even in neighbouring schools.

Article 13: Teaching in Danish in private schools

Danish private schools are very well supported because they fulfil a public need. Every year, Danish schools are getting closer to full equality and hope that this trend will not be questioned, let alone reversed, as happened 13 years ago.

Where is there room for improvement?

School: Material costs were calculated many years ago and are no longer up-to-date, but this

problem is being worked on; and the problem affects all privately run schools, not just those of the Danish minority.

Day-care centres: Danish minority members have to fight for funding for special needs educators, ergotherapists, etc. for their children; they are then referred to German competence centres, but in the process their right to use the minority language is overlooked. The minority has been trying to get the message across to the social affairs ministry, so far without success.

Article 14: Teaching of Danish in public schools

The minority will never have enough pupils to be able to offer vocational or other specialised training courses in Danish. It is therefore all the more important to promote and maintain the knowledge that Danish school leavers bring to such courses, especially in view of the challenges of a cross-border region, where the territories on both sides of the border are far away from major cities, with the result that many young people move away from home to take training courses.

II. Comments by the Frisian Council, northern office (Friesenrat Sektion Nord e.V.)

Friisk Hüs, 6 July 2023

Subject: Comments on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

from the perspective of **Frasche Rädj / Friesenrat Sektion Nord**

Frasche Rädj / Friesenrat Sektion Nord is grateful for any opportunity for political participation in general and for the opportunity to comment on the above Report.

With reference to the last implementation conference on 29 November 2022, at which both the Framework Convention and the Language Charter were discussed, we expect that this group of topics will continue to be addressed this year. We would therefore like to mention another three issues (again, grouped together) that are of immediate importance to us: education, the media and trade mark registrations of Frisian terms.

In general, we welcome the continued efforts of the Schleswig-Holstein state government to ensure the long-term preservation of Frisian language and culture. This is particularly evident in the establishment of the Frisian Foundation (Friisk Stifting/Friesenstiftung) and the clear intention on the part of the state and federal consultative committees overseeing our organisation, especially when it comes to efforts to strengthen Frisian language and culture. We are very pleased to note the improvements that have been made in specific areas. However, we are still far from considering the issues of education, the media and trade mark registrations of Frisian terms as being resolved.

We believe that, instead of interim solutions, only long-term goals can help to save and sustainably preserve the Frisian language and culture from the very real risk of extinction that it faces. We set out these goals as follows:

EDUCATION

1. Frisian must be upgraded to a regular school subject with appropriate curricula.
2. In order to be able to offer Frisian in the regular curriculum, and to achieve the objective set out in the Language Policy Action Plan, namely that Frisian be offered at secondary schools (from lower-secondary level up to the Abitur university entrance certificate), the necessary additional staff hours need to be made available.
3. Prospective Frisian teachers must receive a guarantee of employment in the teaching of

that language as well as a financial allowance of the kind already given to teachers in certain regions.

4. Prospective Frisian teachers must be given an advantage with respect to the numerus clausus regulation (limiting numbers of students), as is already the case for prospective Sorbian teachers.
5. The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein must set up and maintain a professional institution for the production of textbooks, teaching materials and language promotion similar to the West Frisian “afûk” organisation and the Sorbian “Witaj” language centre.
6. In the medium term, Frisian classes must be offered in selected schools throughout the Frisian-speaking region.

MEDIA (radio and television)

Public service broadcasting in Germany has a legal mandate to provide basic media services to the population. This mandate is also the legal basis for the broadcasting licence fee. The task of providing basic media services is not limited to meeting the needs of the majority population and their language, but also takes into account – at least in principle – the needs of Germany’s autochthonous minorities and their languages. In practice, however, the broadcaster Norddeutscher Rundfunk (NDR) still refuses, for example, to provide daily radio news programmes in Frisian and does not offer any television programmes fully in Frisian (not even with German subtitles). Political leaders argue that Frisian programmes would violate the constitutionally guaranteed freedom of broadcasting. But this argument is unconvincing, as the use of a language other than the dominant one does not affect the content of programmes or violate the principle of independent reporting.

Another argument used by broadcasters against the regular scheduling of Frisian programmes is that Frisian-language programmes have a switch-off effect. In our view,

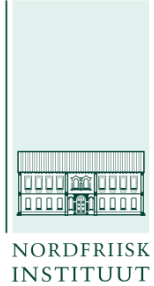
- a) this argument reflects an anti-minority perspective; it is also
- b) a self-perpetuating argument because unless NDR broadcasts programmes in Frisian, the language will remain alien to the majority population, and thus allegedly inappropriate for public use.

The efforts made so far by publicly funded radio and television broadcasters have been limited to temporary and one-off initiatives. In terms of staff it makes available to produce such programmes, NDR uses only interns, voluntary workers and, at best, freelancers. The resulting programmes tend to be occasional projects and one-off initiatives that fill a certain broadcasting niche.

Project funds available for social media campaigns and for the niche radio broadcaster Offener Kanal (open channel) are not sufficient to meet the programming needs of the Frisian ethnic group.

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III. Comments by the North Frisian Institute (Nordfriisk Instituut)



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Subject: Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

Bräist / Bredstedt, 7 July 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are grateful for the opportunity to add our comments to the *Sixth Report of the Federal Republic of Germany in accordance with Article 25 (2) of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities* in response to the recommendations and opinions of the Committee of Ministers and the Advisory Committee of the Council of Europe.

1. The recommendations of the Committee of Ministers identify numerous measures to reduce the still widespread **discrimination against Sinti and Roma living in Germany**. We fully support these proposals as a matter of urgency.
2. As regards the Frisian ethnic group, the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers focus on **three areas of action**:
 - a) the presence of the Frisian language in the media, in particular in public service broadcasting (paragraphs 8 and 23)

- b) teaching about recognised minorities and ethnic groups in Germany at schools; and
- c) Frisian language teaching from nursery to university

Regarding point a):

With regard to the presence of the Frisian language in broadcasting and media, there has so far been no discernible change of course by the public service broadcasters (in this case Norddeutscher Rundfunk; NDR), as paragraph 8 of the Advisory Committee's Opinion accurately concludes. Individual items in the Frisian language with German subtitles, as were broadcast some time ago in the regional news programme Schleswig-Holstein-Magazin, are a step in the right direction, but do not go far enough. One argument still being made against the regular production of Frisian-language programmes is that it would compromise the freedom of the press. This argument is made despite the fact that programming in regional and minority languages does not affect the content of broadcasts but just the language in which the content is presented. As far as we know, provisions and agreements to this effect are legally possible in the relevant state treaties. Another argument is that such programmes are already made by Offener Kanal, but Offener Kanal is a public-access radio broadcaster which lacks the funds and the audience to compete with professional stations. And still, when asked about its Frisian-language programming, NDR can only point to its three-minute weekly programme *Frasch for enarken*. In terms of transmission time, these three minutes do not even reflect the proportion of Frisian-speaking people among the total population of the area covered by the broadcast. Neither the Offener Kanal broadcaster nor the three-minute format constitute a sufficient broadcasting offer in line with the Language Charter.

We expect NDR programming in the Frisian language to be extensive, professionally produced and regularly broadcast, both on television and on the radio. Such TV and radio programmes should also, of course, be made available for access in the stations' online media libraries after they have been broadcast. But media libraries are no substitute for a clear and regular presence in programming schedules, as this makes it clear to the majority population that languages other than German have a tradition in Germany and that they enjoy special protection and rights (for instance in the form of multilingual road signs on federal and regional highways and local place signs in North Frisia).

Paragraph 8 of the Advisory Committee's Opinion state the following (with similar wording in paragraph 23): *"In particular the Frisian minority needs more support for the professional production of media content."* This wording could suggest that the Frisian minority already has a media infrastructure that merely requires support. We would like to correct this wording by pointing out that the need is not so much for production support, but rather for public service broadcasters themselves to produce more programmes in the Frisian language. Because currently, the few productions being made in the Frisian language rely mostly on the work of freelancers or volunteers. And in order to produce an adequate offer of programming in line with the Language Charter, it will be essential to create professional employment positions at NDR that specifically cater for North Frisian. A similar observation is made in paragraph 154 of the Advisory Committee's Opinion: *"It however considers that only voluntary*

engagement in that field cannot guarantee the necessary quality in the journalistic work.” A restructuring of employment positions along these lines at NDR would send a powerful message, and in our view is the only appropriate benchmark against which public service broadcasting should be measured in this respect. We expect that a clear political position should be taken on this issue.

Regarding point b) (including paragraph 25):

In March 2023, Schleswig-Holstein’s state parliament agreed to provide additional funding to set up a professional institution to produce teaching materials and to promote the Frisian language in North Frisia in general. The funding is designed to increase over time and, according to current discussions, five new posts at the North Frisian Institute (Nordfriisk Instituut) and one at the Ferring Foundation (Ferring Stiftung) are expected to be created and filled by 2025, with an average of 80 per cent of full-time working hours per post.

We greatly welcome this decision. However, this alone will change the situation only in certain areas. Further steps will be needed in the coming years to increase the attractiveness of Frisian language teaching both for learners and teachers. Such steps should include the upgrading of Frisian to a regular subject at schools and universities and – in order to avoid the otherwise inevitable competition with leisure activities and logistical problems in rural areas – the integration of Frisian into morning classes at schools. It is also essential to continue Frisian teaching from primary into secondary education if Frisian classes are to have a truly positive impact on the number of speakers. We hope and expect to receive political and administrative support in this regard. We also recommend setting minimum criteria for the “Model Schools for Frisian” award in order to give the award real added value. Useful criteria for this would be: integration of Frisian teaching into the regular curriculum as described above; a progressive teaching approach (from all levels at primary school through at least three years at secondary school); and an increased regional focus in the teaching of subjects such as history and geography.

Paragraph 217 of the Advisory Committee’s Opinion suggests awarding scholarships to prospective teachers. We agree with this proposal but would also propose a measure that already applies to trainee teachers of the Sorbian language: namely to give them a one-point advantage with respect to the *numerus clausus* regulation which limits numbers of students admitted to certain courses of study. Such a measure would mitigate the problem of losing potential Frisian teachers to universities with lower admission barriers, where they end up studying subjects other than Frisian.

Regarding point c):

Paragraph 15 of the Advisory Committee’s Opinion states: *“The Advisory Committee urges the authorities to ensure that pupils throughout Germany learn about the history and contribution of Frisians, Danes, Sinti and Roma and Sorbs to German society in order to create understanding for the continuity and benefits of diversity.”* We very strongly support this recommendation and encourage the academic institutions of the respective groups (the Dansk Centralbibliotek / Danevirke Museum;

the Serbski Institut; the Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma in Heidelberg; the Nordfriisk Instituut) to be involved in the design of this educational approach from the outset.

An essential element in our view, apart from the design of the approach itself, is the mandatory inclusion of this subject in the specific academic requirements or curricula of schools. Because as experience from Lusatia shows, even binding policy requirements are not sufficient if they do not specify when during the school schedule and at what level the subject in question will be taught. We also suggest that, in the regions where minority groups are based, greater regional focus should be placed on the teaching of history, geography and politics, and that it should be possible, where appropriate, to replace central requirements for the curriculum and examinations with topics of regional relevance. We stress that by addressing these topics in the classroom, in addition merely imparting knowledge we can actually raise awareness of how nationally stereotyped thinking is a construct that never matches historical realities. In this way we can prevent ethnic-nationalist ideas and corresponding populist influences from taking hold, and instead educate young people to become responsible, democratically aware citizens.

General:

Paragraph 98 of the Advisory Committee's Opinion states: *"Reaffirming its view that support given to numerically smaller minorities needs to be higher on a per capita basis, it considers that solid support for both the Frisian minority both in Schleswig Holstein (North Frisians) and Lower Saxony (Sater Frisians) is particularly important."* We agree in principle, though in our view this applies not only to smaller minorities. In terms of school funding from the government, the Frisian ethnic group receives a single-digit percentage of the amount of funding given to the Danish and Sorbian groups (both of whose populations are similar, numerically speaking, to the Frisian population in Germany) – or indeed of the funds given to the much smaller German minority in Denmark. There is no convincing justification for this. We hope to see a clear change of course in this regard, particularly in terms of institutional support, so that we can build much larger professional structures, for example *"language nests"* (i.e. language teaching in an informal, extra-curricular and possibly inter-generational context), as mentioned in paragraph 217 of the Advisory Committee's Opinion.

We would be delighted if our comments were taken into account in future to help support the Frisian ethnic group in Germany.

Yours sincerely,

Christoph G. Schmidt, Director

for the North Frisian Institute (Nordfriisk Instituut) and the North Frisian Institute Association (Verein Nordfriesisches Institut e.V.)

IV. Comments by the Sater Frisian Association (Seelter Buund)



Heimatverein Saterland Seelter Buund

Karl-Peter Schramm
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Oldenburg, 21 July 2023

Sixth Report on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in Germany

Seelter Buund welcomes the recommendations of the Advisory Committee to improve the situation of the Frisian ethnic group in the municipality of Saterland. This letter contains comments by Seelter Buund on those various recommendations.

We would like to begin by emphasising that the appointment of an Academic Commissioner for Sater Frisian at the Oldenburgische Landschaft (a regional association of the state of Lower Saxony), at the end of 2020, was an important step for the professionalisation of Sater Frisian organisational structures. The Commissioner for Sater Frisian, Henk Wolf, now carries out his work according to the precedence set by the Low German office of the Ostfriesische Landschaft organisation under the name “Seeltersk-Kontoor”. The original half-time post was made into a full-time post at the end of 2022, thanks to funding from the Federal Government. And by the end of 2023, with the aid of project funding, the Seeltersk-Kontoor gained the independent project staff member Tjallien Kalsbeek.

However, Henk Wolf’s contract will expire in November 2023. This makes long-term planning

difficult and poses a risk to the infrastructure that has been built so far, as well as to many ongoing language-promotion projects. For Seelter Buund, therefore, the long-term security of the commissioner's post is very important in order to ensure effective minority policy in future.

Regarding Article 12 point 2 (Intercultural education), Seelter Buund would like to point out that the obligation to increase knowledge about recognised national minorities in schools is not in line with Lower Saxony's agreement to stimulate "key intercultural competences" in general. In Lower Saxony, the Frisians have a special status under the Framework Convention.

Regarding Article 12 point 3 (Teacher training), Seelter Buund notes that the certification course referred to by Lower Saxony took place five years ago. Teacher training ought to be more regular in nature. We also believe it would be a good thing to remove the following barriers to Sater Frisian teaching:

- Frisian is currently not a formal employment qualification;
- Sater Frisian immersion teaching requires the consent of the pupils concerned.

Finally, the Seelter Buund would like to note that the annual funding available to promote the Sater Frisian language is very welcome, but is not in all circumstances the best form of protection. This is because it cannot be used for all the desired objectives (e.g. books, teaching), cannot be used for longer-term projects, and, due to the current bureaucratic process (application at the beginning of the project, proof of use of funds, project report), puts considerable pressure on available voluntary and professional staff. The Seelter Buund would like the municipality of Saterland, or the Oldenburgische Landschaft itself, to have access to the available funding without bureaucratic hurdles.

For the board of Seelter Buund
Karl-Peter Schramm



V. Comments by the Domowina Federation of Lusatian Sorbs (Domowina – Bund Lausitzer Sorben e.V.)

Comments by the Domowina Federation of Lusatian Sorbs for inclusion in the Sixth Report of the Federal Republic of Germany pursuant to Article 25 (2) of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe

We refer explicitly to the Resolution on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 27 September 2022, and to the Fifth Opinion on Germany by the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities of 3 February 2022, the conclusions of which we hereby support.

The Domowina Federation notes once again that, on the part of governments, parliaments and administrations at federal state level, and of the municipal authorities in the Sorbian areas, there are considerable gaps in knowledge about the documents and conclusions of the Council of Europe. The burden on minorities in the processing of Council of Europe documents and procedures is disproportionate to the political impact.

We therefore welcome the annual implementation conferences at federal level; however, this opportunity is not used at the level of individual federal states.

Contrary to what was stated in the last report of the Advisory Committee, we continue to oppose the collection of data on ethnicity. We refer to the joint opinion of the Minority Council of the four autochthonous national minorities and ethnic groups of Germany of 12 November 2018, and urge the Advisory Committee to take note of this opinion.

Information on the national minorities and their societal relevance

The call for extensive information from the authorities on Germany's autochthonous national minorities, which has been made repeatedly for decades, has not been responded to sufficiently. There is no strategic approach that goes beyond individual measures. Nothing is being done to remedy this situation.

The importance of minority diversity and its added value for the general population does not get sufficiently communicated. In our opinion this is not the task of the minorities themselves,



although they of course aim to achieve this through press and public relations activities. Responsibility lies with the various levels of government to ensure relevant measures are taken. In school education and vocational training, there is little or no place for minority issues.

This should be addressed, among other things, by curricula and training programmes for teachers; by the media sector; by training for journalists, etc. More details regarding this issue should be familiar from Germany's five previous reports on the implementation of the Framework Convention.

In order to increase acceptance by the general population, and thus to strengthen the minorities and their specific characteristics, professional image campaigns are required in addition to continuous education. However, these must be managed in a targeted, consistent and media-friendly manner.

In this regard, we would like to refer to the positive example of the Minority Secretariat's exhibition "What is a minority?" (*Was heißt hier Minderheit?*), which was made possible thanks to financial support from the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (BMI).

In summary, in order to improve the visibility of national minorities in Germany and their achievements, we call for all measures to be initiated proactively by government authorities in consultation with the responsible Sorbian bodies.

Support for structural change and funding agreements

For the Sorbs, one of the main challenges for the coming months is the negotiation of the next funding agreement and the implementation of projects in support of structural change.

Regarding the funding negotiations, we are hoping for an increase in funds to compensate for loss of revenue due to price and wage increases (inflation) and to be able to further develop our work.

We see it as a great opportunity and mark of recognition that we are mentioned in connection with the Structural Reinforcement Act for Mining Regions (*Strukturstärkungsgesetz Kohleregionen; StStG*) and that in the next 15 years we will be able to use project funding of 42.5 million euros for Saxony and 19 million euros for Brandenburg. We are now successfully implementing the first projects. However, we are reaching our limits in terms of project funding management, so in the negotiations on the next financing agreement we are calling for a substantial increase in staff numbers in order to be able to meet the increased requirements in terms of project funding management.



Education issues

The central task of our work is to preserve the Sorbian language and culture at all levels. In all five of Germany's previous reports under the Framework Convention (and in the previous reports under the Language Charter), we have consistently stressed the responsibility of government to provide adequate education offers at all levels. Unfortunately, however, education issues have not been developing to our satisfaction in Brandenburg and Saxony.

As Sorbs, for historically reasons, we have opted for a state-run education system. Unlike for the Danish minority in Schleswig-Holstein, it is a state responsibility to ensure education for the Sorbs. From a historical perspective, it was a correct decision to make the federal states responsible for matters of education. However, we are increasingly concerned that the concrete implementation of education policy will not adequately ensure the survival of the Sorbian language. We therefore call for the federal states of Saxony and Brandenburg to comprehensively address the future of the Sorbian education system.

A specific example: The shortage of teachers, as already described on several occasions, still persists and poses a general threat to the provision of Sorbian state education. In order to address the current shortage of teachers, we expect Brandenburg and Saxony to draw up a strategy and action plan in coordination with the representatives of the Sorbian people. Among other things, access to the teaching profession should be made available in a non-bureaucratic way, for example to people from other professions who wish to take up teaching, or to teachers from Slavic countries.

Digitisation

Digitalisation plays a crucial role in preserving endangered languages such as Sorbian. Digitalisation not only provides access to educational resources and materials, but also opens up new ways to make the Lower and Upper Sorbian languages accessible to a wider public, thus raising awareness of its importance.

In 2021, a Sorbian digitalisation strategy was presented. It set out nine areas of action with 24 thematic areas, for each of which a benefit analysis was carried out.

The three most important technologies are the automatic recognition of spoken language (speech recognition), the machine translation of texts (machine translation) and the automatic generation of spoken language (text-to-speech). The Sorbs are breaking new ground in these areas – not only for the Sorbian languages but for minority languages in general – and their work could legitimately be regarded as a European best practice example.



In order to continue to develop these measures for the survival of the Sorbian language in the coming years, additional funding and close cooperation is required with the ministries and authorities responsible for digitalisation issues at federal and state level.

Political support is needed in approaching big tech companies with regard to the needs of endangered languages in general and the Sorbian language in particular. Microsoft has already been approached in connection with this, but not yet Google, Apple, Facebook or Amazon, for instance.

Media

We have long been calling for Upper and Lower Sorbian language broadcasting to be extended to a 24-hour service in each case. But there are not sufficient offerings in those languages to ensure such a service.

We would like to point out that people, especially of the younger generation, now consume a wide range of (digital) media. And these are not limited to one medium – such as television – but are interconnected. We need a media offer in Sorbian that is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, so that users do not have to constantly switch to other languages in order to get the information they want. There is a large gap in the provision of such media.

The visibility and recognition of Sorbian among the majority population is not helped by the absence of Sorbian language, Sorbian issues, and Sorbian music in the mainstream media.

The presentation of Sorbian issues in the mainstream media is often of poor journalistic quality. Reports are often not properly contextualised or balanced to give a true picture; instead they are distorted and sensationalised. The history, structure and current concerns of minorities should be part of journalistic training.

Structural issues

We agree with the Advisory Committee on the “potentially problematic” situation of the Foundation for the Sorbian People (no. 101 in the Fifth Opinion on Germany).

We also note that the Domowina Federation is the only legitimate legal representation of the interests of the Sorbian people. The Domowina Federation is open to all Sorbs who wish to contribute to the work of this democratic umbrella organisation.

Hate speech and defamation

We are concerned about the rise of right-wing parties and ideologies in Saxony and Brandenburg. This provides fertile ground for hatred and prejudice in society. The Sorbs know from bitter experience what hatred and nationalism can lead to. In previous reports we have described



in detail the impact this has had on the Sorbs. An ever-increasing challenge is online hate speech.

Road signs

Call for bilingual motorway signs: A study was to be commissioned to examine the feasibility of bilingual signs on motorways (to our knowledge, the study has not yet been commissioned). Such a study is redundant: There are numerous examples (and studies) in Europe that clearly refute the idea that multilingual signs present a “danger to road traffic”.

Another call that has been made is for the bilingual signposting of destinations outside the Sorbian areas. Currently, such signs are not consistently bilingual in Lusatia.

Further priorities from previous reports

We call for the following initiatives to be implemented through parliamentary process (after decades of political debate). We will not go into detail here, as these initiatives have already been presented in previous reports:

- The right of Sorbians to female forms of their surname; current bill to amend the law on married names and birth names
- Enshrining of national minorities in Germany's Basic Law (*Grundgesetz*)

Budyšin, 20 July 2023

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VI. Comments by the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma (Zentralrat Deutscher Sinti und Roma e.V.)

Heidelberg, 7 August 2023

Comments by the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma on the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers (CM/ResCMN(2022)7 of 27 September 2022)³⁷ and on the report of the Advisory Committee of the Council of Europe (3 February 2022, published on 14 June 2022)³⁸ for inclusion in the Sixth Report of the Federal Republic of Germany on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in Germany

The following comments describe developments in the reporting period from 2019 to 2023 regarding the protection and promotion of German Sinti and Roma in accordance with the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities from the perspective of the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma and its state member associations. The Central Council of German Sinti and Roma welcomes the report of the Advisory Committee on the implementation of the Framework Convention in Germany of 3 February 2022 and the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers of 27 September 2022. In view of the short reporting format, the Central Council refers to its opinions in Germany's Fourth and Fifth Reports³⁹ and in the Mid-Term Reports of 6 August 2020 and 25 April 2022. Below, we comment only on key developments.

1. Full application of the Framework Convention at federal and state level (MRK recommendation, Article 5)

The Central Council endorses the recommendation of the Committee of Ministers, which recommends full application of the Framework Convention across all *Länder* (federal states) – the federal states having so far ensured very different levels of protection for minorities. The central objectives here are to enshrine the protection of minorities in Germany's Basic Law and in the constitutions of the various federal states, and for the Central Council and its state-level associations to agree treaties with the federal states.

1.1 State treaty between the Federal Government and the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma

The Independent Commission on Antigypsyism (appointed by the Federal Government) recommended in its 800-page final report of June 2021 that the Federal Government conclude a state

³⁷ <https://www.coe.int/en/web/minorities/germany>

³⁸ <https://www.coe.int/en/web/minorities/germany>

³⁹ <https://www.coe.int/en/web/minorities/germany>

treaty with the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma. A state treaty recognises the 40-year work and achievements of the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma in contributing to the development of democracy in the Federal Republic of Germany. The state treaty promotes the further development and long-term security of the organisational structure of the associations, which is to be evaluated and adapted every five years. The staffing level of the Central Council has remained at the same level for almost 30 years, while national and international tasks and institutional obligations, as well as the requirements for the establishment of sustainable structures of the Central Council, have increased considerably. The Central Council of German Sinti and Roma has been negotiating with the Federal Government on the conclusion of a treaty since 2018. The Central Council is disappointed at the delay on the part of the Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI) and urges the Federal Government to conclude the current negotiations swiftly.

1.2 Treaties at federal state level

The Central Council, in cooperation with its associations at federal state level, is committed to concluding treaties under public law between its state-level associations and the respective state governments in order to implement the protection of minorities under the Framework Convention effectively and sustainably (Article 5 of the Framework Convention; recommendation of the Advisory Committee). During the reporting period, an agreement to amend the treaty⁴⁰ with Bavaria was signed in March 2023; a renewal of the treaty with Hessen⁴¹ (effective from January 2023) was signed in May 2022; and our association in Saarland concluded a framework agreement⁴² with the government of that state in April 2022. The 2005 framework agreement between our association in Rhineland-Palatinate⁴³ and the government of that state is to be developed into a treaty in 2023. Our association in Hamburg is disappointed that, despite several years of talks about a treaty, no progress has been made with the Senate of that state. Negotiations have been ongoing in North Rhine-Westphalia since 2018. Our association there is pleased to report that in spring 2023 the state government indicated its willingness to conclude an agreement. Our association now urges a swift conclusion of that treaty in recognition of its 40 years of work in North Rhine-Westphalia. The Central Council also recommends that the federal states of Saxony, Lower Saxony, Bremen, Schleswig-Holstein and Berlin begin talks with our associations on agreements under public law.

1.3 Inclusion of minority protection in Germany's constitution: The protection and promotion of Germany's four national minorities has so far been enshrined in constitutional law only in

⁴⁰ <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/freistaat-bayern-und-der-bayerische-landesverband-der-deutschen-sinti-und-roma-unterzeichnen-aenderungsvertrag/>

⁴¹ <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/erneuerung-des-staatsvertrags-zwischen-dem-landesverband-deutscher-sinti-und-roma-hessen-und-der-hessischen-landesregierung/>

⁴² <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/rahmenvereinbarung-zwischen-der-saarlaendischen-landesregierung-und-dem-landesverband-deutscher-sinti-und-roma-geschlossen/>

⁴³ <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/rahmenvereinbarung-zwischen-der-rheinland-pfaelzischen-landesregierung-und-dem-verband-deutscher-sinti-und-roma-landesverband-rheinland-pfalz-e.v.pdf>

some federal states, although this is in fact a task for the whole of government. The Sinti and Roma minority has therefore for some time been calling for a clear commitment to this whole-of-government task. This could be achieved by including national minorities in the Basic Law⁴⁴ of the Federal Republic of Germany (*Grundgesetz*). The Central Council also supports the proposal to delete the term “race” from the Basic Law⁴⁵ and to replace it with different wording connected with racial discrimination, thus closing current gaps in protection.

1.4 Constitutions of the federal states: Schleswig-Holstein was the first federal state to include the protection and promotion of German Sinti and Roma in the minority protection provisions of its state constitution in November 2012. The Central Council is pleased to report that, in April 2022, the federal state of Brandenburg specified combating antigypsyism as an objective in its state constitution.⁴⁶ The Central Council and our association in Hamburg welcome a similar initiative in Hamburg but regret that, in the context of the Holocaust in which six million Jews and 500,000 Sinti and Roma were killed in Nazi-occupied Europe, only antisemitism has been included in the constitution, while antigypsyism has been subsumed under “group-focused enmity”. Responsibility for this chapter in history cannot and must not be denied. Our associations have started discussions with the Hamburg parliament and are urging a firm stance in opposition to antigypsyism.

1.5 Scope of the Framework Convention (Article 3): The Central Council notes that in Germany there are Sinti and Roma who do not have German citizenship but are undoubtedly members of the German Sinti and Roma, and therefore belong to the recognised national minority. Many Sinti and Roma were stripped of their citizenship by the Nazis on the basis of the “Nürnberg race laws” and sometimes did not regain their citizenship for decades after the Basic Law was introduced. This was in disregard of their legal entitlement under Article 116 (2) of the Basic Law, for which the Central Council called for a remedy in May 2023 based on the report of the Independent Commission on Antigypsyism written in response to proposed legislation to modernise Germany’s nationality law⁴⁷. The Central Council also points to the declaration by the Federal Republic of Germany on the ratification of the 1997 Framework Convention, which states that the Framework Convention applies to Sinti and Roma of German nationality. The Central Council refers to its comments in Germany’s Fifth Report of August 2018.

2. Institutional framework for the protection of minorities, equal participation of Sinti and Roma and combating antigypsyism (Articles 4 and 6)

2.1 Implementation of the recommendations of the Independent Commission on Antigypsyism

⁴⁴ <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/arbeitsbereiche/minderheitenrechte/>

⁴⁵ <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/stellungnahme-zur-aenderung-des-grundgesetzes-zur-ersetzung-der-woerter-seiner-rasse-in-art-3-abs-3-s-1-gg/>

⁴⁶ <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/romani-rose-und-ministerpraesident-dietmar-woidke-treffen-sich-heute-zum-gespraech-in-der-staatskanzlei/>

⁴⁷ <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/stellungnahme-des-zentralrats-zum-referentenentwurf-fuer-ein-gesetz-zur-modernisierung-des-staatsangehoerigkeitsrechts/>

The Federal Government's appointment of the Independent Commission on Antigypsyism in March 2019, based on a motion for a resolution in the German Bundestag, fulfilled a long-standing demand of the Central Council. The Central Council very much welcomes the numerous recommendations (more than 60 in number) and six key demands made by the Independent Commission on Antigypsyism, which were submitted in June 2021 to the then Federal Government and the German Bundestag in its 800-page final report entitled *Perspektivwechsel – nachholende Gerechtigkeit und Partizipation* (Change of perspective – catching up on justice and participation). The Central Council calls on the Federal Government to implement the recommendations of the Independent Commission on Antigypsyism and welcomes the recommendation of the Committee of Ministers and the Advisory Committee.⁴⁸

2.2 Recognition of the IHRA working definition of antigypsyism

The Central Council is pleased to report that on 31 March 2021 the Federal Cabinet recognised the non-legally binding working definition of antigypsyism⁴⁹ adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA). The definition was also recognised by the Federal Criminal Police Office (Bundeskriminalamt)⁵⁰ on 27 January 2023 and by non-state organisations such as the Protestant Church in Germany (Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland),⁵¹ the railway company Deutsche Bahn,⁵² The football club 1. FSV Mainz 05⁵³ and the Jewish sports federation Makkabi Deutschland.⁵⁴ The Central Council recommends that all federal states and their subordinate authorities adopt the IHRA working definition of antigypsyism and raise awareness of antigypsyism within their institutions.

2.3 Appointment of the first Federal Government Commissioner for the Fight against Antigypsyism

The Central Council welcomes the appointment in March 2022 of a Federal Government Commissioner for the Fight against Antigypsyism and for Sinti and Roma Life in Germany⁵⁵ (Dr

⁴⁸ Detailed opinion of the Central Council on the specific topics and recommendations (24 June 2021): <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/stellungnahme-des-zentralrats-deutscher-sinti-und-roma-zum-bericht-der-unabhaengigen-kommission-antiziganismus-uka/>

⁴⁹ <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/zentralrat-deutscher-sinti-und-roma-begruesst-die-verabschiedung-der-ihra-arbeitsdefinition-zu-antiziganismus/>

⁵⁰ <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/gemeinsam-gegen-antiziganismus/>

⁵¹ <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/kurschus-wir-muessen-uns-mit-dieser-schuldgeschichte-der-kirchen-auseinandersetzen/>

⁵² <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/deutsche-bahn-nimmt-arbeitsdefinition-von-antiziganismus-der-international-holocaust-remembrance-alliance-an/>

⁵³ <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/mit-dem-1-fsv-mainz-05-uebernimmt-der-erste-verein-im-deutschen-profifussball-die-arbeitsdefinition-antiziganismus-der-ihra/>

⁵⁴ <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/makkabi-deutschland-e-v-nimmt-arbeitsdefinition-antiziganismus-der-ihra-an/>

⁵⁵ <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/zentralrat-deutscher-sinti-und-roma-begruesst-die-benennung-des-beauftragten-der-bundesregierung-gegen-antiziganismus-und-fuer-das-leben-der-sinti-und-roma-in-deutschland/>

Mehmet Daimagüler), as recommended by the Central Council and the Independent Commission on Antigypsyism. The Central Council urges the Federal Government to equip this office with the necessary resources (staff, finances, project funding) and the corresponding mandate. The Commissioner should promote targeted programmes and measures to combat antigypsyism and, once in every legislative period, coordinate, draw up and submit to the German Bundestag a comprehensive report on behalf of the Federal Government.

2.4 Appointment of commissioners for the fight against antigypsyism by the federal state governments

The Central Council of German Sinti and Roma welcomes the appointment of justice minister Doreen Denstädt⁵⁶ as the first commissioner for the fight against antigypsyism and for Sinti and Roma life in the state of Thuringia. The Central Council calls on all the other federal states to follow the example of Thuringia in appointing state commissioners for the fight against antigypsyism with an official mandate and title, and to provide them with a budget for implementing the recommendations of the Independent Commission on Antigypsyism at state level.

2.5 Joint Federal and State Commission: In line with the recommendation of the Independent Commission on Antigypsyism, the Central Council recommends that the Federal Government reach out to the federal states with the aim of further improving the discussion and coordination of measures to combat and prevent antigypsyism by setting up a Joint Federal and State Commission for this purpose.⁵⁷ We urge the federal states to include their own measures to combat antigypsyism in their state programmes for the prevention of racism and extremism. They should also establish targeted information campaigns on antigypsyism and refine and coordinate these with the Federal Government.

2.6 National strategy against antigypsyism

The Central Council calls on the Federal Government and its Commissioner for the Fight against Antigypsyism to develop a national strategy against antigypsyism. It should do this in coordination with the federal states and minority organisations; it should also regularly evaluate the implementation of the strategy and report on this to the German Bundestag. The national strategy against antigypsyism is intended to address the recommendations of the Independent Commission on Antigypsyism. It is also intended as a response to the Federal Ministry of the Interior's strategy "Tackling antigypsyism, ensuring participation!" (*Antiziganismus bekämpfen, Teilhabe sichern!*)⁵⁸, which was developed in February 2022, and which should be refined and replaced by the new strategy, based on the participation of the minority community, the federal states and

⁵⁶ <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/der-zentralrat-begruesst-die-benennung-einer-beauftragten-gegen-antiziganismus-in-thueringen/>

⁵⁷ <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/stellungnahme-des-zentralrats-deutscher-sinti-und-roma-zum-bericht-der-unabhaengigen-kommission-antiziganismus-uka/>

⁵⁸ <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/zentralrat-deutscher-sinti-und-roma-begruesst-die-gestern-von-der-bundesregierung-beschlossene-nationale-strategie-antiziganismus-bekaempfen-teilhabe-sichern/>

the municipalities. The Central Council would like to stress how important it is that Federal Government use a national strategy to implement the EU strategic framework for equality, inclusion and participation of Sinti and Roma for 2021 to 2030⁵⁹ (adopted in March 2021). It is also important that adequate resources be allocated for this; that participation of minority organisations be ensured at all stages of planning, implementation and evaluation; that the framework and approaches for monitoring and evaluating the strategy be developed as part of a process moderated by the Anti-Discrimination Agency; and that the EU funding programmes ESF+ and FEAD+ are used to implement the strategy both through mainstream and targeted measures. The new strategic framework for Germany,⁶⁰ presented by the Federal Government in February 2022, is an improvement over the previous one (see the Central Council's 2022 evaluation report)⁶¹ and focuses on the fight against antigypsyism. At an early stage, the Central Council presented to the Federal Government an initial action plan and detailed comments on the EU strategy⁶² as well as three comprehensive civil society evaluation reports on the previous strategy.⁶³

2.7 Evaluation and reporting: The Central Council calls on the Federal Government to report to the German Bundestag by the end of 2024, and once every legislative period in future, on the implementation and evaluation of the recommendations by the Independent Commission on Antigypsyism. The Central Council calls on the Federal Government to develop instruments and measures to evaluate the strategy and measures at federal and state level, and to provide the necessary resources for evaluation processes and reports (long-term civil society⁶⁴ processes and reports and independent academic processes and reports).

2.8 Collection of data on equality and participation

The Central Council and its state member associations are in principle against the collection of data on ethnicity. This position is shared by the minority council of the four autochthonous national minorities, of which the Central Council is a member. The reason for this contrary position on the part of the Central Council and its state member associations can be traced back to the genocide of the Sinti and Roma under the Nazi regime, which was facilitated by the compilation of exhaustive records on minority members. In September 2018, the Central Council organised a closed expert discussion about which data collection tools and methods in qualitative and quantitative research are appropriate for measuring antigypsyism, discrimination and unequal treatment, and which basic guidelines must be observed in order to avoid the collection of data

⁵⁹ <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/neue-eu-strategie-2030/>

⁶⁰ <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/zentralrat-deutscher-sinti-und-roma-begruesst-die-gestern-von-der-bundesregierung-beschlossene-nationale-strategie-antiziganismus-bekaempfen-teilhabe-sichern/>

⁶¹ <https://romacivilmonitoring.eu/countries/germany/>

⁶² <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/eu-strategie/>

⁶³ <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/arbeitsbereiche/internationale-arbeit/monitoring-eu-rahmenstrategie/>

⁶⁴ <https://romacivilmonitoring.eu/countries/germany/>

on the basis of ethnicity. The documentation of the expert discussion,⁶⁵ the final report of the Independent Commission on Antigypsyism,⁶⁶ the civil society evaluation reports on the EU strategy,⁶⁷ and the academic publications on data collection by Reuss/Mack⁶⁸ and Mack⁶⁹ provide important input into this debate. The Central Council welcomes the plan to develop a framework and approaches for the monitoring and evaluation of the EU strategy⁷⁰ as part of a process moderated by the Anti-Discrimination Agency.

3. Legal framework for protection against discrimination (Article 4)

3.1 Reform of the General Equal Treatment Act (*Allgemeines Gleichbehandlungsgesetz*; AGG):

In numerous evaluation reports,⁷¹ the Central Council addresses the shortcomings of the General Equal Treatment Act. Anti-discrimination associations and organisations must be granted the right to take legal action on behalf of victims as well as the capacity to sue without being directly involved in the subject matter of the action. The Central Council also calls for extending the scope of the General Equal Treatment Act to cover the government sector. A high proportion of discriminatory practices against minority members stems from government institutions. The state of Berlin, which has its own State Anti-Discrimination Act (*Landesantidiskriminierungsgesetz*; LADG)⁷² is a good role model in this respect. The Central Council welcomes the recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to strengthen the Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency (*Antidiskriminierungsstelle des Bundes*; ADS), on whose board the Central Council has been actively represented since 2010.

3.2 Act to Promote Democracy (*Demokratieförderungsgesetz*): The Central Council supports the initiative to pass a law promoting democracy – a law that recognises and promotes the important role of civil society organisations in protecting and promoting democratic culture in the long

⁶⁵ <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/dossier-zum-fachaustausch-datenerhebung-von-antiziganismus-antidiskriminierungs-und-gleichstellungsdaten/>

⁶⁶ <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/stellungnahme-des-zentralrats-deutscher-sinti-und-roma-zum-bericht-der-unabhaengigen-kommission-antiziganismus-uka/>

⁶⁷ <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/arbeitsbereiche/internationale-arbeit/monitoring-eu-rahmenstrategie/>

⁶⁸ Dimensions of Antigypsyism in Europe, eds. Ismael Cortés and Markus End. European Network Against Racism (ENAR) and the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma (Brussels 2019).

<https://www.enar-eu.org/Book-Dimensions-of-Antigypsyism-in-Europe/>

⁶⁹ From the Shadow to the Limelight: The Value of Civil Society Policy Monitoring Knowledge in Roma Equality Struggles, eds. Marek Hojsik, Georgeta Munteanu and Violetta Zentai. Center for Policy Studies (Budapest 2022). <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/en/from-the-shadow-to-the-limelight-the-value-of-civil-society-policy-monitoring-knowledge-in-roma-equality-struggles/>

⁷⁰ <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/zentralrat-deutscher-sinti-und-roma-begruessst-die-gestern-von-der-bundesregierung-beschlossene-nationale-strategie-antiziganismus-bekaempfen-teilhabe-sichern/>

⁷¹ <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/arbeitsbereiche/internationale-arbeit/monitoring-eu-rahmenstrategie/>

⁷² <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/zentralrat-deutscher-sinti-und-roma-begruessst-das-neue-landesantidiskriminierungsgesetz-ladg-in-berlin/>

term. The Central Council recommends consolidating the core structures of the “Live Democracy!” (*Demokratie Leben!*) programme, including the Education Forum against Antigypsyism as a centre of excellence in this area.

3.3 Law against online hate speech: The Network Enforcement Act (*Netzwerkdurchsetzungsgesetz; NetzDG*) has been in force in Germany since 1 January 2018. According to it, “clearly punishable” content must be deleted within 24 hours. In 2018, the Central Council worked together with the youth protection organisation “jugendschutz.net” to monitor antigypsyism online. The Council published its comments⁷³ on this issue and organised seminars⁷⁴ for members of the minority and an international conference.⁷⁵ The Central Council welcomed a court ruling of January 2023,⁷⁶ in which racist incitement was systematically prosecuted and antigypsyism was named as the motive.

3.4 Act against Digital Violence (*Gesetz gegen digitale Gewalt; GgdG*): In its comments on this issue,⁷⁷ the Central Council calls on the Ministry of Justice to extend the scope of its planned Act against Digital Violence. The right to block accounts must also be granted in cases of violation of section 130 of the Criminal Code (*Strafgesetzbuch; StGB*). This is necessary because Sinti and Roma continue to face digital violence on social networks and other platforms. They are also the target of incitement to hatred and violence online.

3.5 Act on the Federal Police (*Bundespolizeigesetz; BPolG*): The Central Council criticises the practice of racial profiling in policing. The Central Council calls for an end to unwarranted police checks based on racial profiling in the future. To achieve this, it is necessary to remove the powers under which members of the (federal) police may check people “for the purpose of migration control” without any good reason.⁷⁸

3.6 Act on the Modernisation of Criminal Proceedings (*Gesetz zur Modernisierung des Strafverfahrens*): Risk of discrimination through DNA analysis

In its comments⁷⁹ on draft legislation for the modernisation of criminal proceedings (2019), the Central Council warns of the risk of discrimination through DNA analysis.

⁷³ <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/massive-verbretung-von-antiziganismus-im-internet-hass-gegen-sinti-und-roma-im-netz-besser-erkennen-systematisch-erfassen-und-effektiv-bekaempfen/>

⁷⁴ <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/seminar-antiziganismus-im-netz-erkennen-monitoren-melden/>

⁷⁵ <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/hate-speech-und-antiziganismus-in-den-medien/>

⁷⁶ <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/zentralrat-begruesst-wegweisendes-urteil-des-berliner-amtsgerichts-wegen-volksverhetzung-mit-antiziganistischen-motiven/>

⁷⁷ <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/stellungnahme-des-zentralrats-deutscher-sinti-und-roma-zum-eck-punktepapier-des-bundesministeriums-der-justiz-fuer-ein-gesetz-gegen-digitale-gewalt/>

⁷⁸ <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/stellungnahme-des-zentralrats-zur-gesetzesentwurf-zur-neustrukturierung-des-bundespolizeigesetzes/>

⁷⁹ <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/stellungnahme-des-zentralrats-zum-entwurf-eines-gesetzes-zur-modernisierung-des-strafverfahrens/>

4. Recognition and addressing the legacy of systematic injustice towards the Sinti and Roma (Article 6)

4.1 Recognition of the Nazi genocide of the Sinti and Roma: The Central Council welcomes the academic research carried out by the Independent Commission on Antigypsyism in June 2021 on the dimension and impact of the Holocaust which killed 500,000 Sinti and Roma in Nazi-occupied Europe (this was first recognised in 1982 by Federal Chancellor Helmut Schmidt) and on the continued injustice towards the Sinti and Roma after 1945. The continued injustice after 1945 was first recognised as a “second persecution” by Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier⁸⁰ in a speech in October 2022. The Central Council recommends that the German Bundestag explicitly acknowledge this injustice and recognise 2 August as the European Holocaust Remembrance Day for Sinti and Roma, and that it mark the 80th anniversary on 2 August 2024 in an appropriate manner.

4.2 Commission to address the legacy of injustice after 1945: In line with the call of the Independent Commission on Antigypsyism, the Central Council calls on the Federal Government to do the following: to support the establishment of a commission to address the legacy of injustice committed against Sinti and Roma in the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) and the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) after 1945; to play an active part in a comprehensive historical examination of the role of the public authorities at municipal, state and federal level in the persecution of Sinti and Roma in the Federal Republic of Germany; and to promote the safeguarding, research and accessibility of the relevant records, especially records from the Nazi era, records on the topic of reparations, judicial assessments, and personal records of the perpetrators at the time in question. On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Luxembourg Agreement (September 2022), the Central Council wrote a press release urging the Federal Government to take concrete steps to address the unbelievable post-war policy regarding compensation for the Sinti and Roma (see press release⁸¹ for details).

4.3 Compensation for victims of Nazi persecution: The Independent Commission on Antigypsyism, appointed by the Federal Government, which issued its final report in 2021, called on the Federal Government to comprehensively address post-war injustice towards the Sinti and Roma and to enable the few surviving Sinti and Roma still living in Germany and Europe to live in dignity, especially in terms of compensation. The Central Council calls for Sinti and Roma victims of Nazi persecution to be treated equally with Jewish victims of Nazi persecution, in law and in administrative practice. The Central Council recommends that the Federal Government expand and support the humanitarian aid programmes for Sinti and Roma who survived the

⁸⁰ <https://www.bundespraesident.de/SharedDocs/Reden/DE/Frank-Walter-Steinmeier/Reden/2022/10/221024-Denkmal-Sinti-Roma.html>

⁸¹ <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/festveranstaltung-70-jahre-luxemburger-abkommen/>

Nazi regime, helping those survivors in their old age. These programmes have been run successfully for years by the EVZ Foundation (Stiftung Erinnerung, Verantwortung und Zukunft). Please see the Central Council's comprehensive comments on the issue of compensation.⁸²

In terms of the tasks and structures currently to be redefined under the "transformation of compensation", especially with regard to the Holocaust, the Central Council expects the Federal Government to ensure fully equal treatment of Sinti and Roma. In the view of the Central Council, this has not yet been achieved.

4.4 Academic research on antigypsyism

The Central Council calls on the Federal Government to expand research funding to allow the desired research to go ahead. (The research in question is outlined in the report by the Independent Commission on Antigypsyism.) There is a need for more (and more practical) research projects focusing on the historical development and contemporary forms of antigypsyism, taking into account the perspectives and participation of Sinti and Roma at all stages, as well as adherence to ethical research standards (see Independent Commission on Antigypsyism).

The Central Council recommends developing the Research Centre on Antigypsyism (Forschungsstelle Antiziganismus) at the University of Heidelberg into a "Centre for Antigypsyism Research".

5. Combating and monitoring antigypsyism (Articles 4 and 6)

5.1 Recording antigypsyist incidents and offences, data on hate crime

The threshold for verbal and physical attacks against Sinti and Roma in Germany remains very low, as shown by the Federal Government's figures on antigypsyist offences.⁸³ Since 2017, antigypsyism has been recorded as a separate category in federal statistics on politically motivated crime. Since then, the case numbers have steadily increased. (No. of cases: 2017: 41; 2018: 63; 2019: 81; 2020: 128; 2021: 109; 2022: 145). The low case numbers show that only a fraction of crimes are reported by victims. The lack of trust in law enforcement is one of many reasons for this. Because all too often, these crimes are not regarded by police and law enforcement authorities as being motivated by antigypsyism, or they are trivialised. The Central Council calls on the Federal Government to further improve the security authorities' recording of antigypsyist offences. Statistics on antigypsyist crimes should be specially highlighted in the annual report on "politically motivated crime" and supplemented by regular updates. We urge the Federal Government to ask its Commissioner for the Fight against Antigypsyism to assess whether members of the minority community are sufficiently protected against hate crime, or whether there is a need for legal amendments. For example, the category "antigypsyist" should be added to the list of sentencing reasons for offences in section 46 (2) sentence 2 of the Criminal Code (*Strafgesetzbuch*; StGB).

⁸² <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/entschaedigung-fuer-sinti-und-roma-2020/>

⁸³ <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/pmk-statistik-fuer-das-jahr-2022-veroeffentlicht/>

5.2 Establishment of the Reporting and Information Office on Antigypsyism (Melde- und Informationsstelle Antiziganismus; MIA)

The Reporting and Information Office on Antigypsyism,⁸⁴ initiated and established by the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma, has been recording, documenting and analysing antigypsyist incidents since January 2022. The MIA was initially funded by the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (BMI) but since September 2022 has been funded by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ). It has regularly been in the public eye since it was launched at an event in Berlin. The MIA is in the process of building a network of minority-run organisations, social support offices and anti-discrimination bodies to report incidents and provide assistance to victims. Civil society organisations as well as government agencies should be made more aware of and helped to identify and report antigypsyist incidents. On 26 March 2023, an association called “MIA – Reporting and Information Office on Antigypsyism” (MIA – Melde- und Informationsstelle Antiziganismus) was established in Berlin. It will run the MIA from September 2023 onwards. Within one year, the MIA managed to set up a functional national office with three regional reporting offices: in Rhineland-Palatinate, Berlin and Saxony. Regional offices in Bavaria and Hessen and other federal states are soon to follow. The Central Council calls on the Federal Government to maintain its funding beyond 2024 and calls on the federal states to fund the establishment and implementation of regional reporting offices.

5.3 Antigypsyism and police and security authorities

The Central Council considers the signing of the agreement “Together against antigypsyism” (Gemeinsam gegen Antiziganismus) – a joint declaration on future cooperation by the Criminal Police Office (Bundeskriminalamt; BKA) and the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma⁸⁵ on 27 January 2023 as a historic milestone. The Central Council recommends initiating a debate on the subject of antigypsyism among the police authorities at federal, state and municipal level, in which they critically examine the problematic traditions of their own organisations. The Central Council calls for an examination of the history of the federal state criminal police offices, from the Nazi era to the creation of the Federal Republic of Germany and up to the present day; see Bavarian Criminal Police Office (Bayerisches Landeskriminalamt; BLKA).⁸⁶ The leading role of the criminal police in the Nazi genocide should be an integral part of the training of police officers, as should the historical continuity of personnel and ideology after 1945. Since 2020, there has been cooperation between the Central Council and the criminal police faculty at the Federal University of Public Administration (Hochschule des Bundes; HS Bund), and regular workshops

⁸⁴ <https://www.antiziganismus-melden.de/>

⁸⁵ <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/gemeinsam-gegen-antiziganismus/>

⁸⁶ <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/eine-rezension-zu-der-arbeit-des-bayerischen-landeskriminalamt-und-seiner-zigeunerpolizei-1946-bis-1965/>

on antigypsyism take place as part of diversity and anti-racism courses. There is also cooperation on training with the Berlin police academy and the Federal Police. And the Central Council's affiliated associations provide training at federal state level.

5.4 Ban on racist methods of record-keeping by the police and the judiciary

In July 2023, the Central Council expressed to Iris Spranger (the chairperson of the conference of federal state interior ministers) its dismay at discriminatory police categories such as "Roma clan crime", which help justify and perpetuate the systematic profiling of members of the minority group. For example, in the 2022 "situational report on clan crime in Lower Saxony",⁸⁷ property offences were attributed by the investigating authorities to a "large family of Roma ethnicity" and thus categorised as "clan crime". In the view of the Central Council, crimes should be prosecuted and punished regardless of the appearance of the perpetrator. The Central Council of German Sinti and Roma objects to and criticises the fact that in the aforementioned report (as was also the case in Berlin in 2018-2019)⁸⁸, offences attributed to members of our minority group also refer to their ethnicity and are now categorised as "clan crime". The Central Council of German Sinti and Roma sees this as a continuation of deep-rooted racist profiling of our minority by the police and investigative authorities. It is a practice which puts entire families under suspicion, potentially subjecting them to police prevention measures and prosecution. The Central Council calls for an explicit ban on racist methods of record-keeping; for data protection officers to investigate incidents in several federal states; for the establishment of independent offices for complaints about policing; and for a clear public pledge by the police authorities against antigypsyism.

5.5 Right-wing extremism: The far-right terrorist attacks in Munich (2016) and Hanau (2020) showed that Sinti and Roma, too, fall victim to deadly violence. Thirty years after the pogrom-like riots of Rostock-Lichtenhagen, racist incitement and violence against our minority group have increased in recent years, in particular arson attacks on shelters of refugee Roma from Ukraine, Moldova and the Western Balkans. The Central Council was pleased to note that antigypsyism was named as a motive in the trial against the perpetrators of the racist arson attack in the Alb-Donau district⁸⁹ of Baden-Württemberg. The Central Council is deeply concerned

⁸⁷ <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/zentralrat-deutscher-sinti-und-roma-kritisiert-lagebild-zur-clankriminalitaet-2022-in-niedersachsen/>

⁸⁸ <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/geisel-rose/>

⁸⁹ <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/antiziganismus-tatmotiv-fuer-brandanschlag/>

about the vandalism of the Holocaust memorial and other memorial sites (2023,⁹⁰ [2022](#),⁹¹ [2020](#),⁹² [2019](#)⁹³).

5.6 Advisory work on protection against discrimination: Anti-discrimination advice for members of the German Sinti and Roma minority through the advisory services of the Central Council and its regional associations is crucial to ensure that their concerns and challenges are adequately addressed. However, there are major challenges in the comprehensive provision of low-threshold anti-discrimination advice, and there is still considerable scope for expansion in this area. It is of great importance that the advisory bodies in the regional associations have sufficient qualitative resources to provide social-psychological and legal advice. We wish to see independent and qualified anti-discrimination bodies, including those run by the Central Council and its associations, enshrined in law under the General Equal Treatment Act (Allgemeines Gleichbehandlungsgesetz; AGG) and adequately funded.

6. Media (Article 9)

6.1 Participation of Sinti and Roma representatives in broadcasting councils and regional media authorities

The appointment of Sinti and Roma to the control bodies of private and public media is an explicit social, political and legal obligation emerging from the recognition of Sinti and Roma as an autochthonous national minority in Germany. Still today the reality of Sinti and Roma in Germany is often characterised in a range of ways by discrimination that is reinforced and perpetuated by negative stereotypes in television and film reporting, images accompanying the news that encourage prejudice, and entertainment films that are in some cases racist. One of our member associations, the Association of German Sinti in Minden (Verein Deutscher Sinti e.V. Minden), was designated by the state parliament of North Rhine-Westphalia in May 2021 as a socially relevant group that was entitled to send a representative to the media commission of the state media authority. In 2022, Oswald Marschall represented the association several times in meetings of the North Rhine-Westphalia media commission; Jacques Delfeld Sr. of the Rhineland-Palatinate association also represents the minority on the board of the broadcaster Südwestrundfunk (SWR). The Central Council continues to work actively in other federal states to ensure that associations have a seat on the relevant broadcasting boards and state media authorities.

⁹⁰ <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/zentralrat-verurteilt-anschlag-auf-denkmal-fuer-die-im-nation-alsozialismus-ermordeten-sinti-und-roma-europas/>

⁹¹ <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/der-vorsitzende-des-zentralrats-deutscher-sinti-und-roma-romani-rose-verurteilt-die-schaendung-von-gedenkzeichen-die-den-opfern-des-konzentrationslagerns-buchenwald-gewidmet-sind/>

⁹² <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/stolperstein-von-johann-trollmann-mit-ss-runen-beschmiert/>

⁹³ <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/schaendung-des-denkmals-fuer-die-ermordeten-sinti-und-roma-europas/>

6.2 Media coverage: The Central Council has lodged a complaint with the German Press Council against the article *Eskaliert jetzt der Roma-Krieg* (The Roma war escalates) published in the Bild newspaper, Cologne, on 24 April; it also lodged a complaint against the article ‘*Gute Diebin bringt 85.000 Euro Brautpreis – Parallel-Gesellschaft der Roma-Clans* (85,000 euros paid in return for a bride who’s a good thief – parallel society of the Roma clans), published in Focus online on 5 December 2022. Both articles are in breach of guideline 12.1. of the Press Code because they specifically identify the defendants with reference to their ethnicity – as members of “Roma clans”. There is no public interest in referring to their ethnicity. This are just two examples among many that the Central Council documents each year and takes action against. The Central Council therefore calls for the Press Code to strengthened and for minority members to be represented in media regulating bodies.

6.3 Image policy in the media: For decades, many agencies’ image databases and archives used by media and television broadcasters have collected a variety of images that perpetuate antigypsyist stereotypes and narratives, thus influencing the kind of images that are associated with Sinti and Roma. These databases should be investigated and edited. Stigmatising images and descriptions must be removed in order to prevent antigypsyist portrayals of Sinti and Roma from continuing in the future. Following criticism from the Central Council, the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (a newspaper) changed a photo it had used with an article⁹⁴ published in November 2022 under the title *Umweltkriminalität wirksamer bekämpfen* (Combating environmental crime more effectively). The Central Council worked together with the Education Forum against Antigypsyism (Bildungsforum gegen Antiziganismus) to produce a brochure on antigypsyism and a film called *Von, mit oder über Sinti und Roma* (From, with or through Sinti and Roma).⁹⁵

7. Cultural funding (Article 5)

7.1 New building for the Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma:

The Central Council welcomes the Federal Government’s funding of the new building and refurbishment of the Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma in Heidelberg. This is an important contribution to long-term cultural policy work by the minority group and helps to address the issue of antigypsyism. This is a milestone on the way to a museum for Sinti and Roma.

7.2 Remembrance and commemoration: The Central Council urges the Federal Government to keep alive the memory of the Holocaust; to support the establishment of a collection and archive by the Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma which will form the basis

⁹⁴ <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/zentralrat-deutscher-sinti-und-roma-kritisiert-paradebeispiel-der-antiziganistischen-medienberichterstattung-in-der-frankfurter-allgemeinen-zeitung/>

⁹⁵ <https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/von-mit-oder-ueber-sinti-und-roma-ueberlegungen-zum-themenfeld-antiziganismus-und-film/>

for a new permanent exhibition in Heidelberg and in block 13 of the Auschwitz-Birkenau memorial museum, and will be used for temporary exhibitions and other forms of publicity; to strengthen the next generations, whose voices will be central to the culture of remembrance and commemoration; to strengthen, for the long term, educational work on the Holocaust and Nazi injustice in Germany and Europe, particularly from the perspective of Sinti and Roma and through projects run by minority organisations; and to provide sufficient funding for historical and political education.

7.3 Preservation of the graves of Holocaust survivors: An agreement was signed on 8 December 2018 between the Federal Government and the federal states to preserve the graves of Sinti and Roma persecuted under the Nazi regime (*Bund-Länder-Vereinbarung betreffend den Erhalt der Gräber der unter der nationalsozialistischen Gewaltherrschaft verfolgten Sinti und Roma*; BLV). This agreement responded to the long-standing concern of the Central Council to preserve the graves of Holocaust survivors as family memorials and as places of historical remembrance for later generations. At the express request of the Federal Government and the federal states, in 2019 the Central Council assumed the task of demonstrating in writing to the Federal Office for Central Services and Unresolved Property Issues (BADV) in Berlin that deceased persons had been persecuted under the Nazi regime as specified in section 2 No. 2 of the aforementioned agreement (BLV). In 2022, the Central Council provided this kind of assistance to the BADV with respect to 120 deceased persons. In 71 cases, the Central Council was consulted by the BADV. In the Central Council's view, there is a need for clarification of the reimbursement practice by the BADV if graves have been transferred to the care of municipal or church cemeteries. In addition, the Central Council expects the evaluation that was agreed in 2018 to be carried out with a view to making the necessary adjustments to the rules.

8. Awareness-raising in society (Articles 6 and 12)

8.1 Joint Declaration with the Standing Conference of Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the federal states (KMK) on teaching about the history and present-day lives of Sinti and Roma in schools: On 12 December 2022 in Berlin, the Standing Conference of Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the federal states (Kultusministerkonferenz; KMK) adopted a Joint Declaration on teaching about the history and present-day lives of Sinti and Roma in schools (*Erklärung zur Vermittlung der Geschichte und Gegenwart von Sinti und Roma in der Schule*). This was drawn up together with the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma and the Alliance for Solidarity with the Sinti and Roma of Europe.⁹⁶ The Central Council recommends that the federal states apply this non-binding agreement and support the development of educational materials. The Central Council has also agreed with the KMK to develop a joint recommendation on the issue of antigypsyism. And the Central Council supports the initiative of

⁹⁶ https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/2022-12-12_gem-erklaerung-sinti-roma.pdf

the Minority Council to develop a joint recommendation with the KMK on teaching about all national minorities.

8.2 Strengthening of civil-society minority organisations and promotion of Sinti and Roma

The Central Council calls on the Federal Government and federal states to help the Central Council and its regional associations to promote the equal participation of the minority group; to fight against antigypsyism; to continue to fully support civil-society efforts against antigypsyism; and to continue in future to provide funding for this at federal and state level. Antigypsyism prevention is a constant task in civic education and in the implementation of prevention programmes and requires long-term planning certainty. Of particular importance here is the “Live Democracy!” programme (*Demokratie Leben!*), under which the Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma set up the Education Forum against Antigypsyism (*Bildungsforum gegen Antiziganismus*)⁹⁷ in Berlin, which was opened in 2019.

9. Education policy (Article 12): Establishing an organisation to fund the education of gifted Sinti and Roma: As a counterpart to the existing 13 organisations that fund the education of gifted learners, the Central Council recommends that the Federal Government set up such an organisation for Sinti and Roma, building on the experience of the academy and scholarships organisation at the Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma.

10. Preservation and promotion of the Romani language (Article 14)

The teaching and preservation of the Romani language is important to German Sinti and Roma and should be practised and promoted within the minority community. As a result of their persecution under the Nazi dictatorship, most German Sinti and Roma, in particular Holocaust survivors, refuse to share their language with persons not belonging to their ethnic groups. The majority of language promotion offers within the minority community can only be provided through voluntary work by members of that community. The associations support the recommendation for immediate action made by the Committee of Experts on the Language Charter to expand the provision of Romani education for the minority by supporting specific projects and programmes of the associations. The Central Council aims to intensify exchanges and dialogue within the minority in order to clarify and further develop expectations, conditions, objectives and educational formats. The Federal Government and state governments should recognise the work being done by associations to preserve the language within the minority community. This recognition should be reflected in Germany’s report, and the authorities should support this work in a targeted way.

11. Participation in public affairs (Article 15)

11.1 Participation of Sinti and Roma in minority policy: The Central Council calls on the Federal Government to ensure the participation of the minority on all relevant issues for Sinti and

⁹⁷ <https://gegen-antiziganismus.de/>

Roma; to evaluate the Consultative Committee on Issues Concerning the Sinti and Roma in the Federal Ministry of the Interior (*Beratenden Ausschuss für Fragen der Sinti und Roma im Bundesinnenministerium*) and to further develop that committee, based on requirements, by creating subject-specific working bodies; and to set up an advisory and participatory structure under the responsibility of the Federal Government Commissioner for the Fight against Antigypsyism.

11.2 Diversity of the minority: The Central Council disagrees with the brief description and recommendation by the Advisory Committee regarding the diversity of the minority and the assessment of the Central Council. The Committee's opinion fails to recognise the nationally and internationally recognised work of the Central Council, which for four decades has successfully represented, on a political level, the various interests of the minority as a whole in terms of equal participation and historical legacy. In recent years, the Central Council and its regional associations have admitted many new member associations and other members that represent different generations and backgrounds, such as a student association, children's and youth groups, a group of women and Roma with immigrant backgrounds.

11.3 Participation in media, the academic community and institutions: The Central Council recommends that participation structures in public service areas such as the media, academia, public authorities and state institutions be opened up to representatives of the Sinti and Roma minority on a long-term basis. This should include bodies involved with cultural policy, and funding structures for film and culture (e.g. state film funds).

VII. Comments by the Sinti Alliance of Germany (Sinti Allianz Deutschland e.V.)

ON THE SIXTH REPORT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES

HOW HAS THE SITUATION DEVELOPED SINCE THE LAST REPORT?

It has been five years since we made our last comments (in 2019). Much has happened during that period and the situation for the minority has varied considerably.

On the one hand, progress has been made at national level and in some federal states in the development and structures of antigypsyism and anti-discrimination work and in the recognition of minority rights.

Sinti and Roma are still frequently exposed to discrimination and disadvantage. And exclusion has partly worsened.

It should be stressed that, despite various programmes, far too little progress is being made in the education sector. Germany's education system is still poor in terms of providing access and support for children of diverse cultural backgrounds; and the COVID-19 pandemic generally exacerbated the negative trends of consistent marginalisation in schools and educational institutions.

Inflation is now worsening the social situation, threatening the livelihoods of many minority people and their families.

In the aftermath of the pandemic, Germany is showing a clear tendency towards societal division; and this is always a sign of bad times ahead for the Sinti and Roma minority.

The dreadful war in Ukraine (and Russia's aggression there) is a clear reminder of the precarious situation of Roma, not only in Ukraine but also in many Eastern European countries; and we see the extent to which the war contributes to the deterioration of the situation. And this requires us, as a German minority, to show more solidarity towards those who have been discredited and oppressed.

We are particularly concerned about the rise of the far right in Germany and the rest of Europe. We fear that the rise of the AFD (Alternative für Deutschland) – or other right-wing populist and fascist forces in Germany and Europe – may bring antigypsyist tendencies into government institutions.

At the same time, we are pleased to report improved opportunities for democratic participation and involvement on the part of Sinti and Roma and their associations. New opportunities are

being created to enable participation. And that is encouraging. More minority voices are speaking up and want to be heard. This is an important process that must be supported.

SINTI AND ROMA IN GERMANY 2023

The challenges facing German and European society as a whole also have an impact on us as a minority. It is important to realise that conditions for the Sinti and Roma minority have become more complicated in recent years, independently of the situation described above.

First we should mention the drastic increase in the cost of living – above all the high costs of food, energy and rent. Many families are no longer able to afford these costs. We have no figures on how many families have lost their homes in recent years, despite government support. However, we know of such families. In many cases, families have shared their living space and helped one another out. That is our people's great strength. But not all situations can be resolved in this way.

In addition, many people's lives are made more difficult by poorly insulated houses and poor access to public transport where they live. For example, the 49 euro monthly public-transport ticket is not an option for people who do not have a bank account or internet access because it can only be ordered as a subscription online.

It is true that government support is available, recently including uncomplicated help which the Federal Government has provided to the municipalities. And yet, bureaucratic hurdles and lack of access often prevent this help from reaching those who need it.

At the same time, many Sinti and Roma work in precarious jobs, such as scrap dealers, or are migrant workers, tradespeople or self-employed. As a result, Sinti and Roma often rely on small transport vehicles, whose operating costs have now greatly increased. In addition, work in these areas has decreased since late summer 2022, as potential customers have had to save their money.

The situation is now subject to drastic and dramatic change. This is because we are increasingly confronted with issues affecting the whole of humanity. We, too, in our minority community, need to realise that humanity as a whole has reached a crossroads.

The climate crisis (which currently manifests itself in hotter summers, drought and increased water shortages) affects everyone. But people face different challenges in dealing with this development. The same applies to environmental damage, extinction of species, etc.

For many Sinti and Roma, for example, the measures now being taken to address climate change also create fears, as they may make life even more expensive. Our people usually live in poorly protected houses, on busy streets, under electric masts, in poor air, surrounded by electromagnetic pollution and noise. Who pays the costs of the measures being taken to mitigate climate change?

Many Sinti and Roma are small traders and depend on their cars. Petrol and maintenance costs

for motor vehicles have already increased. How will people cope with this? These are existential issues.

And what about health care provision for our people? It is true that we benefit from the health care system. But the COVID-19 pandemic showed how difficult it was to access information and how our people's living conditions and surrounding environment made them more vulnerable to the pandemic. And how difficult it was for the health authorities to make information accessible to a diverse society. The situation was not helped by the historical background of mistrust of public health measures on the part of Sinti and Roma. The public health authorities certainly do not take such issues into account.

We are facing upheavals in technology, such as artificial intelligence, which probably already influences us more than we realise. We do not know how these developments will affect our people in the coming years.

For example, we do not know to what extent social media is already being used by populists to manipulate users. Our young people (who are generally not well integrated into the education system) are highly vulnerable to developments in new media, especially social media and big data. For example: hate speech, online sexual assaults, Instagram and TikTok.

Many families are noticing that their young people are completely absorbed in the online world of their phones, and this is a cause for concern.

The world of work is also undergoing change. In this area, too, we lack information. We fear that we will be even more excluded from the labour market in the coming years than we are now. We cannot allow this to happen! Moreover, this should be unacceptable for German society as a whole, given the shortage of skilled workers due to demographic developments.

The gap between rich and poor in society affects our people particularly severely. If this development is accompanied by an increase in hatred and division, then we should certainly be concerned. The prospect of far-right or right-wing populist forces becoming stronger and more confident is frightening to us.

In view of all these challenges, it is important to show solidarity and support for Sinti and Roma and to understand that our people need protection.

SINTI AND ROMA IN EDUCATION

The vicious circle of poor education, unemployment and poor jobs for our young people continues. Although society has become more diverse, and this is recognised, it has so far not been possible to reduce the injustice in education. On the contrary, children of the minority are placed too quickly in special needs classes, leading to the aforementioned vicious circle of poor education, lack of qualifications and barriers to training and the labour market.

It is a mystery to us that it is not possible in Germany to find an alternative to the practice of selective education after only four years of schooling. And this not only affects children of the minority: almost entire generations are being excluded in terms of education. This can no longer be justified.

Urgent action is therefore needed in the education system: Teachers and child day-care staff need to be better informed and trained about minorities and minority rights. It is important to recognise the role of the minority language Romani as a “home language” (language spoken in the home). Many teachers are not aware that Romani is spoken by German Sinti children. It is important to understand that children are strengthened in their cultural identity by speaking Romani and that only by doing so can they develop a sense of belonging.

It is also important to recognise and appreciate the cultural strengths of Sinti, Roma and other minority groups, for instance in music and dancing.

It is remarkable that many children who are considered failures at school are willing to invest a lot of time and energy in learning an instrument.

It is important that young minority parents be given the opportunity to develop a better understanding of the education system and its structure. Many parents do not realise the consequences of sending their child to a special needs school. But this would require schools to engage in a different, more inclusive kind of communication with parents.

New and innovative formats are needed to open up education, including offers outside school. These could include Sinti parents becoming mentors in teaching Romani. Sinti children and teenagers are entitled to protection as minority members and should feel welcome and recognised in our society.

Germany must help the Sinti and Roma minority to preserve their own culture in modern ways, for example through cultural centres where the culture can be experienced and passed on.

It is only when there is public awareness of diversity and we create places of interaction, in the form of such institutions, that the population can be considered truly diverse.

Last but not least, it is important to overcome the mistrust of official institutions within the minority.

KEEPING ALIVE HISTORICAL REMEMBRANCE | COMBATING ANTIGYPSYISM

There is an urgent need to keep alive the memory of the Nazi regime of terror. This requires that Sinti and Roma be able to express their experience as survivors, and that this experience be acknowledged.

It is encouraging that many memorial sites are developing programmes on the persecution of the Sinti and Roma, following the recognition of the IHRA working definition of antigypsyism. However, there is a lack of direct communication *with* the minority and a failure to recognise their expertise. This deficit is exacerbated by existing educational problems.

There is an urgent need to develop programmes that give a voice to children and grandchildren of survivors and enable them to pass on the history of their people to others. Unfortunately, many people in our society lack a basic knowledge of these historical crimes. For instance, many are unaware of the “Himmler Decree” (*Himmler-Erlass*).

The Himmler Decree had a devastating impact on all members of the minority in Germany and the occupied territories. Under Nazi rule, Sinti and Roma were put into forced labour, arrested, institutionalised, harassed and murdered. Atrocities were committed in Eastern European countries.

In the German context, the first people to be deported were Sinti and Roma. It was on them that the terrible logistics of deportation were tried out. German Sinti and Roma, and other minority groups, experienced other horrors in addition to this. They were put into forced labour, subjected to racial examinations and stigmatised as “antisocial”, “work-shy” or “criminals”. As a result of the ~~gypsy~~ decree, they were deprived of basic rights, which meant that they did not initially receive adequate reparations in the post-war period.

It was only in the 1980s that their rights were recognised and housing estates were set up for them by way of reparations. But these estates were often of a questionable nature. We also call for the provision of dignified care and assistance from the federal states responsible for such housing estates. The harsh post-war discrimination experienced by the minority in their dealings with the authorities, in which they sometimes encountered the same civil servants who sent their people to concentration camps under the Nazis, has left deep wounds that are passed on from generation to generation.

Unfortunately, this history is largely unknown in our society, as is the fate of Eastern European Roma. However, Sinti and Roma are increasingly speaking up and telling their stories. Young people should be encouraged to do internships at memorial sites, even if they have not attended a school that prepares them for university entrance (*Gymnasium*).

There are a growing number of young people from the minority who are demanding such opportunities. They should receive urgent support. The Sinti Alliance has launched the SINTI-UNITED network, which focuses on empowerment, participation and involvement for its people. This network is also intended to improve communication between different groups of the minority in order to promote understanding of one another’s issues and allow them to join forces in fighting for their interests.

RAISING THE SINTI PROFILE | SUPPORT FOR CONTACT AND DIALOGUE

There is still much to be done in the fight against antigypsyism, especially in view of the rise of the far-right AFD (Alternative für Deutschland) party, as well as ongoing wars, structural racism and increasing social inequality. Although anti-discrimination bodies to combat antigypsyism are gradually being established, Sinti and Roma continue to experience discrimination in their daily lives and in the labour market.

The number of reports of antigypsyist incidents continues to rise. Unfortunately, it is likely that this discrimination will increase in the future, albeit with regional differences, especially in view of Roma refugees fleeing from Ukraine.

Nevertheless, we should not forget that we, the German Sinti and Roma, have been living in this country for centuries. It is time to look more closely at how we have helped shape this country and what role our culture plays in social cohesion in Germany. It is high time to engage in open dialogue with the majority population. We call for support to be provided for researching and understanding our history and change, including our history before the Nazis came to power.

In our country, there is much talk about the urban-rural divide. Prior to the two world wars, it was often the German Sinti who brought cultural offerings such as operettas or opera to the countryside. This important aspect of cultural history was almost forgotten, including among the Sinti themselves. World-famous composers and musicians have always appreciated us. There have also been many artists who were inspired by our culture. All of this requires further research, otherwise we run the risk of progressively losing our own identity.

Because our own values and our unique cultural history convey a sense of pride, identity and the joy of living within our minority community. Of course, there are sceptical voices among us, too, who find it difficult to forget the discrimination we have experienced. However, many of us German Sinti are keen to share our joy of life with other people – through many forms of contact and lively dialogue.

HOW TO MOVE FORWARD?

It is important that the Sinti and Roma umbrella organisations, and other organisations of ours, conclude agreements at federal level and with the federal states – agreements in which access and financial support for the minority are legally enshrined.

A proposal at federal level to this effect has been drawn up by the Sinti Alliance of Germany together with the Federal Union of German Sinti and Roma (Bundesvereinigung der Sinti und Roma e.V.). In this proposal, we support the idea of creating a national council of representatives from our minority organisations – a democratically legitimate body representing the minority. This council would be the voice of the various different groups of the minority and their umbrella organisations – a voice that would be heard in federal politics, the Bundestag, the Federal Government and its ministries.

This is not about competition with other umbrella organisations, but about enlargement and securing better opportunities for minority people to participate in society.

In our view, the formation of such a council would be a major step forward, as we are hoping for more transparency in terms of political participation and decision-making. We see this as an opportunity to encourage more people from the minority groups to participate, to gain better access for themselves and equal opportunities.

And this is one of our main objectives.

We have waited for equality in German society long enough, e.g. in education.

For us as a minority, equality is something we can only achieve for ourselves!

We believe that if we strengthen our efforts in this direction in the years to come, we can also protect German and European society by making it more open and diverse. And as a result, we can show right-wing forces the meaning of respect for those who are different!

Bergisch Gladbach, 14 July 2023



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F. Concluding remarks

The responsible federal and state authorities will address the critical comments made by the representatives of the national minorities and will describe further progress in the next report. Efforts will continue in implementing the Framework Convention.

Tables for Schleswig–Holstein

Annex

Part I – Schools of the Danish Schools Association for South Schleswig (Dansk Skoleforening for Sydslesvig e.V.)

1. Primary level

Dis- trict	Name of school	Hrs/wk	Pupils	Hrs/wk	Pupils	Hrs/wk	Pupils	Hrs/wk	Pupils	Total hrs/wk	Total pupils
		1st grade	1st grade	2nd grade	2nd grade	3rd grade	3rd grade	4th grade	4th grade		
FL	Cornelius Hansen-Skolen	6	16	6	22	6	18	5.2	15	23.2	71
FL	Gustav Johannsen-Skolen	6	24	6	22	6	19	5.2	22	23.2	87
FL	Jens Jessen-Skolen	6	32	6	27	6	24	5.2	19	23.2	102
FL	Jørgensby-Skolen	6	37	6	46	6	35	5.2	35	23.2	153
FL	Oksevejens Skole	6	27	6	16	6	17	5.2	21	23.2	81
NF	Vimmersbøl Danske Skole	6	10	6	16	6	15	5.2	10	23.2	51
NF	Bredsted Danske Skole	6	8	6	14	6	11	5.2	10	23.2	43
NF	Hans Helgesen-Skolen	6	7	6	10	6	12	5.2	17	23.2	46
NF	Husum Danske Skole	6	17	6	20	6	24	5.2	22	23.2	83
NF	Læk Danske Skole	6	19	6	12	6	13	5.2	23	23.2	67
NF	Nibøl Danske Skole	6	10	6	7	6	18	5.2	7	23.2	42
NF	Risum Skole/Risem Schölj	6	3	6	7	6	8	5.2	0	23.2	18
NF	Uffe-Skolen, Tønning	6	8	6	11	6	9	5.2	10	23.2	38
NF	Sild Danske Skole	6	16	6	11	6	11	5.2	13	23.2	51
NF	Vyk Danske Skole	6	3	6	2	6	2	5.2	0	23.2	7
RD	Askfelt Danske Skole	6	7	6	11	6	13	5.2	14	23.2	45

Tables for Schleswig-Holstein

RD	Ejderskolen, Rendsborg	6	23	6	11	6	17	5.2	7	23.2	58
RD	Jernved Danske Skole	6	17	6	12	6	16	5.2	9	23.2	54
RD	Jes Kruse-Skolen, Egerndørde	6	33	6	24	6	22	5.2	37	23.2	116
RD	Vestermølle Danske Skole	6	7	6	4	6	2	5.2	9	23.2	22
SL	Gottorp-Skolen, Slesvig	6	32	6	18	6	24	5.2	21	23.2	95
SL	Hanved Danske Skole	6	9	6	17	6	12	5.2	16	23.2	54
SL	Harreslev Danske Skole	6	41	6	38	6	31	5.2	32	23.2	142
SL	Hatlund-Langballe Danske Skole	6	17	6	7	6	12	5.2	8	23.2	44
SL	Hiort Lorenzen-Skolen, Slesvig	6	49	6	47	6	36	5.2	36	23.2	168
SL	Husby Danske Skole	6	9	6	11	6	6	5.2	7	23.2	33
SL	Jaruplund Danske Skole	6	12	6	8	6	18	5.2	13	23.2	51
SL	Kaj Munk-Skolen, Kappel	6	10	6	14	6	15	5.2	11	23.2	50
SL	Lyksborg Danske Skole	6	16	6	16	6	15	5.2	13	23.2	60
SL	Medelby Danske Skole	6	2	6	4	6	2	5.2	4	23.2	12
SL	Satrup Danske Skole	6	9	6	17	6	5	5.2	9	23.2	40
SL	Skovlund-Valsbøl Danske Skole	6	14	6	11	6	11	5.2	6	23.2	42
SL	Sønder Brarup Danske Skole	6	19	6	9	6	18	5.2	11	23.2	57
SL	Sørup Danske Skole	6	10	6	14	6	9	5.2	13	23.2	46
SL	Treja Danske Skole	6	8	6	9	6	8	5.2	9	23.2	34
SL	Trene-Skolen, Tarp	6	14	6	10	6	14	5.2	13	23.2	51
SL	Store Vi - Vanderup Danske Skole	6	20	6	12	6	13	5.2	14	23.2	59
Total	37 schools	222	615	222	567	222	555	192.4	536	858.4	2,273

Tables for Schleswig–Holstein

2. Lower secondary level

Dis- trict	Name of school	Hrs/w k 5th grade	Pupils 5th grade	Hrs/w k 6th grade	Pu- pils 6th grad e	Hrs/w k 7th grade	Pu- pils 7th grad e	Hrs/w k 8th grade	Pu- pils 8th grad e	Hrs/w k 9th grade	Pu- pils 9th grad e	Hrs/w k 10th grade (lower sec.)	Pu- pils 10th grad e (low er sec.)	Total hrs/w k	Total pu- pils
FL	Duborg-Skolen	0	0	0	0	3	45	3	62	3	44	3	49	12	200
FL	Cornelius Hansen-Skolen	3.7	16	3.7	14	3	42	3	36	3	39	3	38	19.4	185
FL	Gustav Johannsen-Skolen	3.7	21	3.7	21	3	56	3	67	3	54	3	46	19.4	265
FL	Jens Jessen-Skolen	3.7	21	3.7	22	3	43	3	30	3	32	3	24	19.4	172
FL	Jørgensby-Skolen	3.7	39	3.7	38	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	10.4	79
FL	Oksevejens Skole	3.7	20	3.7	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7.4	38
NF	Vimmersbøl Danske Skole	3.7	3	3.7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7.4	10
NF	Bredsted Danske Skole	3.7	14	3.7	14	3	8	3	5	0	0	0	0	13.4	41
NF	Hans Helgesen-Skolen	3.7	4	3.7	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7.4	12
NF	Husum Danske Skole	3.7	19	3.7	20	3	35	3	38	3	43	3	21	19.4	176
NF	Ladelund Ungdomsskole	0	0	0	0	3	12	3	19	3	26	0	0	9	57
NF	Læk Danske Skole	3.7	20	3.7	20	3	38	3	43	3	48	3	32	19.4	201
NF	Nibøl Danske Skole	3.7	9	3.7	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7.4	18
NF	Risum Skole/Risem Schölj	3.7	6	3.7	4	0	5	3	1	3	2	0	0	13.4	18

Tables for Schleswig-Holstein

SL	Treja Danske Skole	3.7	4	3.7	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7.4	9
SL	Trene-Skolen, Tarp	3.7	10	3.7	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7.4	22
SL	Store Vi - Vanderup Danske Skole	3.7	9	3.7	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7.4	13
SL	A.P. Møller-Skolen	0	0	0	0	3	84	3	67	3	119	3	88	12	358
To- tal	39 schools	129.5	470	129.5	500	48	449	48	481	39	501	27	349	431.4	2750

Tables for Schleswig–Holstein

3. Upper secondary level

Dis- trict	Name of school	Hrs/wk	Pupils	Hrs/wk	Pupils	Hrs/wk	Pupils	Total hrs/wk	Total pupils
		Lower phase	Lower phase	Upper phase 1st year	Upper phase 1st year	Upper phase 2nd year	Upper phase 2nd year		
FL	Duborg-Skolen	3	131	3	138	3	125	9	394
SL	A.P. Møller-Skolen	3	111	3	107	3	89	9	307
Total	2 schools	6	242	6	245	6	214	18	701

4. Summary of schools of the Danish Schools Association for South Schleswig (Dansk Skoleforening for Sydslesvig e.V.).

District	Name of school	Total teachers	Total hrs/wk	Total pupils
FL	Duborg-Skolen	6	21,0	594
FL	Cornelius Hansen-Skolen	12	42.6	256
FL	Gustav Johannsen-Skolen	13	42.6	352
FL	Jens Jessen-Skolen	11	42.6	274
FL	Jørgensby-Skolen	14	33.6	232
FL	Oksevejens Skole	4	30.6	119
NF	Vimmersbøl Danske Skole	1	30.6	61
NF	Bredsted Danske Skole	6	36.6	84
NF	Hans Helgesen-Skolen	4	30.6	58
NF	Husum Danske Skole	8	42.6	259
NF	Ladelund Ungdomsskole	3	9.0	57
NF	Læk Danske Skole	11	42.6	268
NF	Nibøl Danske Skole	1	30.6	60

Tables for Schleswig–Holstein

NF	Risum Skole/Risem Schölj	2	36.6	36
NF	Uffe-Skolen, Tønning	4	30.6	57
NF	Sild Danske Skole	2	36.6	81
NF	Vyk Danske Skole	3	36.6	16
RD	Askfelt Danske Skole	2	30.6	57
RD	Ejderskolen, Rendsborg	5	39.6	123
RD	Jernved Danske Skole	5	30.6	74
RD	Jes Kruse-Skolen, Egernførde	15	42.6	325
RD	Vestermølle Danske Skole	1	23.2	22
SL	A.P. Møller Skolen	6	21.0	665
SL	Gottorp-Skolen, Slesvig	3	42.6	149
SL	Hanved Danske Skole	5	30.6	77
SL	Harreslev Danske Skole	12	30.6	215
SL	Hatlund-Langballe Danske Skole	2	30.6	52
SL	Hiort Lorenzen-Skolen, Slesvig	10	30.6	249
SL	Husby Danske Skole	1	30.6	41
SL	Jaruplund Danske Skole	3	30.6	70
SL	Kaj Munk-Skolen, Kappel	4	30.6	69
SL	Lyksborg Danske Skole	5	30.6	89
SL	Medelby Danske Skole	1	30.6	20
SL	Satrup Danske Skole	2	30.6	56
SL	Skovlund-Valsbøl Danske Skole	3	30.6	57
SL	Sønder Brarup Danske Skole	7	42.6	199

Tables for Schleswig-Holstein

SL	Sørup Danske Skole	1	30.6	63
SL	Treja Danske Skole	1	30.6	43
SL	Trene-Skolen, Tarp	4	30.6	73
SL	Store Vi - Vanderup Danske Skole	1	30.6	72
Total	40 schools	204	1307.8	5724

Tables for Schleswig–Holstein

Part II – Danish lessons at public schools in the school years 2014/15–2022/23

1. Number of schools

		2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Number of schools with Danish lessons	Primary schools	1	4	5	4	4	6	9	8	10
	Comprehensive schools	42	37	39	39	36	33	32	33	33
	Comprehensive schools with upper secondary level	5	5	4	5	5	4	4	5	5
	<i>Gymnasien</i> (schools that prepare pupils for university)	8	7	7	7	7	8	8	8	9
	Vocational schools	10	7	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Total:		66	60	63	63	60	59	61	62	65

Tables for Schleswig–Holstein

2. Number of pupils

		2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Number of pupils that receive Danish lessons	Primary schools	18	75	57	99	181	101	391	463	629
	Comprehensive schools	2,525	2,078	1,897	1,843	1,71	1,798	1,486	1,383	1,323
	Comprehensive schools with upper secondary level	1,208	778	388	729	688	710	663	653	583
	<i>Gymnasien</i> (schools that prepare pupils for university)	1,137	1,1	904	826	924	863	881	850	776
		4,888	4,031	3,246	3,497	3,503	3,472	3,421	3,349	3,311
	Vocational schools	1,573	1,436	1,226	1,33	1,444	1,192	1,201	1,113	1,067
Total:		6,461	5,467	4,472	4,827	4,947	4,664	4,622	4,462	4,378

Tables for Schleswig–Holstein

3. Danish lessons at schools for general education in the 2022/2023 school year

a. Model schools for Danish – primary level

District	School	Total teachers	Hrs/wk 1st grade	Pu-pils 1st grade	Hrs/wk 2nd grade	Pu-pils 2nd grade	Hrs/wk 3rd grade	Pu-pils 3rd grade	Hrs/wk 4th grade	Pu-pils 4th grade	Total hrs/wk	Total pu-pils
HL	Trave Grund- und Gemeinschaftsschule Lübeck	1	0.5	2	0.5	5	0.5	2	0.5	4	2	13
FL	Hohlwegschule (keine offizielle Modellschule)	0	0	0	2	32	0	0	0	0	2	32
NF	Grundschule Breklum-Bredstedt-Bordelum	4	0	0	0	0	1	15	1	17	2	32
NF	Grundschule Klixbüll	1	1	16	1	18	1	14	1	15	4	63
	Grundschule Klixbüll (Außenstelle Stadum)	1	1	10	1	3	0	0	0	0	2	13
SL	Alexander-Behm-Schule	2	1	34	1	24	1	31	1	14	4	103
SL	Auenwaldschule Böklund Grundschule	2	2	17	2	26	2	11	0	0	6	54
SL	Grundschule Langballig	3	0	0	2	20	2	6	2	11	6	37
SL	Siegfried-Lenz-Schule Handewitt	2	2	20	1	20	2	18	1	22	6	80
	Weding premises	2	2	22	2	21	2	7	0	0	6	50
	Jarplund premises	2	2	11	2	12	2	15	0	0	6	38
SL	St.-Jürgen-Schule	1	2	10	2	8	1	6	1	5	6	29
SL	Südensee-Schule Sörup	0	1	28	1	26	1	31	0	0	3	85
Total	10 schools	21	14.5	170	17.5	215	15.5	156	7.5	88	55	629

Notes:

1. At the Hohlwegschule and the Südensee-Schule, Danish lessons are given by a teacher who is not formally qualified to teach Danish.

Tables for Schleswig–Holstein

2. In this table the Hohlwegschule in Flensburg is also listed as an unofficial model school for Danish, but with Danish lessons in the 2nd grade.

3. This table also includes a comprehensive school (Alexander-Behm-Schule, Tarp) and a comprehensive school with an upper secondary level (Siegfried-Lenz-Schule, Handewitt). The primary school section of the Siegfried-Lenz-Schule is a model school for Danish. For statistical purposes, the Alexander-Behm-Schule in Tarp counts as a comprehensive school and the Siegfried-Lenz-Schule in Handewitt as a comprehensive school with an upper-secondary level.

b. Comprehensive schools

Dis- tric- t	Name of school	Total teachers	Hrs/ wk 6th grade	Pu- pils 6th grade	Hrs/ wk 7th grade	Pu- pils 7th grade	Hrs/ wk 8th grade	Pu- pils 8th grade	Hrs/ wk 9th grade	Pu- pils 9th grade	Hrs/ wk 10th grade	Pu- pils 10th grade	Total hrs/w k	Total pu- pils
FL	Comenius-Schule	0	0	0	4	5	4	13	4	7	4	6	16	31
FL	Käte-Lassen-Schule	1	0	0	4	12	4	17	4	17	4	17	16	63
HE I	Gemeinschaftsschule am Ham- berg	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	16	2	16
HE I	Klaus-Groth-Schule	2	0	0	4	8	4	5	4	4	4	3	16	20
HL	Emanuel-Geibel-Schule	2	0	0	4	11	4	12	4	8	4	12	16	43
HL	Holstentor-Gemeinschaftsschule	4	0	0	4	11	4	17	4	8	4	7	4	26
HL	Trave-Grund- und Gemeinschaftsschule Lübeck	1	0.5	2	0.5	5	0.5	2	0.5	4	2	13	16	43
KI	Leif-Eriksson-Gemeinschaftss- chule	5	0	0	4	16	4	11	4	10	4	10	16	47
KI	Max-Tau-Grund- und Gemeinschaftsschule	4	0	0	4	12	4	6	4	6	0	0	12	24

Tables for Schleswig-Holstein

NF	Ferdinand-Tönnies-Schule	3	0	0	4	11	4	12	4	10	4	8	16	41
NF	Gemeinschaftsschule Nord	5	0	0	4	17	0	0	4	19	0	0	8	36
NF	Grund- und Gemeinschaftsschule des Schulverbandes Viöl	3	0	0	4	11	2	12	3	20	3	10	12	53
NF	Gemeinschaftsschule mit FöZ des Schulverbandes Mittleres Nordfriesland	7	0	0	4	12	4	18	4	14	4	14	16	58
NF	Gemeinschaftsschule an der Lecker Au	3	0	0	4	15	3	10	4	17	4	7	15	49
NF	Grund- und Gemeinschaftsschule der Gemeinde Mildstedt	2	0	0	4	8	4	7	4	11	4	2	16	28
NF	Herrendeichschule Grund- und Gemeinschaftsschule der Gemeinde Nordstrand	1	0	0	4	5	0	0	4	5	4	3	12	13
NF	Gemeinschaftsschule der Stadt Niebüll	3	0	0	4	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	17
NF	Emil-Nolde-Schule, Grund- und Gemeinschaftsschule Südtondern	4	0	0	4	13	4	16	4	17	4	11	16	57
OH	Warderschule	1	0	0	4	9	4	11	4	8	4	3	16	31

Tables for Schleswig-Holstein

PI	Gemeinschaftsschule Rugenbergen	1	0	0	2	3	2	6	2	2	0	0	6	11
SL	Grund- und Gemeinschaftsschule des Schulverbandes Schafflund	2	0	0	4	16	4	16	4	14	4	16	16	62
SL	Dannewerkschule	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	13	4	7	8	20
SL	Heinrich-Andresen-Schule	1	0	0	4	20	4	13	4	14	4	11	16	58
SL	Zentralschule Harrislee	3	1.5	78	4	14	4	12	4	21	4	18	17.5	143
SL	Alexander-Behm-Schule	2	0	0	4	10	4	4	4	13	4	5	20	32
SL	Gemeinschaftsschule an der Schlei	2	0	0	0	0	4	8	4	6	4	3	12	17
SL	Struensee Gemeinschaftsschule	2	0	0	4	11	4	12	4	11	4	12	16	46
SL	Schule am Thorsberger Moor	2	0	0	4	14	4	11	4	14	4	9	16	48
SL	Geestlandschule	2	0	0	0	0	4	16	4	8	4	8	12	32
SL	Bruno-Lorenzen-Schule	5	0	0	4	11	4	4	4	8	4	16	16	39
SL	Eichenbachschule	3	0	0	4	12	4	17	4	9	4	8	16	46
SL	Erich Kästner Schule	3	0	0	4	14	4	14	4	14	4	5	16	47
SL	Auenwaldschule	1	0	0	4	10	4	6	4	6	4	4	16	26
Total	33 schools	82	2	80	110.5	333	103.5	308	117.5	338	111	264	448.5	1,323

* Danish is not taught in the 5th grade

Tables for Schleswig-Holstein

c. Comprehensive schools with upper secondary level

Dis- trict	Name of school	Total teach- ers	Hrs/ wk 7th grade	Pu- pils 7th grade	Hrs/ wk 8th grade	Pu- pils 8th grade	Hrs/ wk 9th grade	Pu- pils 9th grade	Hrs/ wk 10th grade (sec. I)	Pu- pils 10th grade (sec. I)	Hrs/ wk Lowe r phas e	Pu- pils Lowe r phas e	Hrs/ wk Up- per phas e 1st year	Pu- pils Up- per phas e 1st year	Hrs/ wk Up- per phas e 2nd year	Pu- pils Up- per phas e 2nd year	Total hrs/ wk	Total pu- pils
FL	Kurt-Tu- cholsky-Schule	4	4	25	2	36	2	15	2	19	2	7	2	14	2	10	16	126
FL	Fridtjof-Nan- sen-Schule	7	4	49	4	31	4	40	4	42	3	14	3	12	3	7	25	155
NMS	Gemeinschafts- schule Faldera	1	0	0	0	0	3	19	3	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	32
OH	Inselschule Feh- marn	3	4	11	4	17	4	9	4	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	46
SL	Siegfried-Lenz- Schule**	11	4	22	4	25	4	28	4	19	4	58	4	40	4	32	36	224
Total	5 schools	26	16	67	14	109	17	111	17	102	9	79	9	66	9	49	99	583

* Danish is not taught in the 5th and 6th grades

** comprehensive school section only

Tables for Schleswig-Holstein

d. *Gymnasien* (schools that prepare pupils for university)

Dis- trict	Name of school	Total teachers	Hrs/ wk* 8th grade	Pu- pils 8th grade	Hrs/ wk 9th grade	Pu- pils 9th grade	Hrs/ wk 10th grade (sec. I)	Pu- pils 10th grade (sec. I)	Hrs/ wk Lowe r phas e	Pu- pils Lowe r phas e	Hrs/ wk Up- per phas e 1st year	Pu- pils Up- per phas e 1st year	Hrs/ wk Up- per phas e 2nd year	Pu- pils Up- per phas e 2nd year	Total hrs/ wk	Total pu- pils
FL	Altes Gymnasium	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	34	4	37	8	71
FL	Auguste-Viktoria- Schule	3	0	0	9	61	0	0	0	0	3	20	2	14	14	95
HEI	Gymnasium Brunsbü- ttel	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	38	8	25	8	23	24	86
KI	Käthe-Kollwitz-Schule	1	3	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	19
KI	Thor-Heyerdahl- Gymnasium	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	33	8	31	20	51	35	115
NF	Theodor-Storm-Schule	4	0	0	8	56	0	0	0	0	7	9	7	17	22	82
NF	Friedrich-Paulsen- Schule	5	0	0	8	52	12	64	6	29	8	31	7	34	41	210
OH	Küstengymnasium Neustadt	1	0	0	3	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	24
SL	Bernstorff- Gymnasium Satrup	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	27	4	31	4	16	12	74

Tables for Schleswig-Holstein

To- tal	9 schools	21	3	19	28	193	12	64	25	127	42	181	52	192	162	776
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* Danish is not taught in the 5th to 7th grades

Tables for Schleswig-Holstein

4. Vocational schools

District	Schools	Type of school	Total teachers	Total hrs/wk	Total pupils
FL	RBZ Eckener Schule		3		
		Specialised upper secondary school for technology and design		4	1
		Two-year full-time vocational school for technology and design		4	5
		Vocational <i>Gymnasium</i> for technology		21	84
		Full-time vocational school II - training for technical assistants		4	3
FL	RBZ Hannah-Arendt-Schule		5		
		Two-year full-time vocational school for health and social professions		4	7
		Vocational <i>Gymnasium</i> for food/nutrition		12	25
		Vocational <i>Gymnasium</i> for health and social professions		12	76
		Vocational <i>Gymnasium</i> for health and food/nutrition		12	26
		Part-time vocational school for restaurant professions		2	27
FL	RBZ Handelslehranstalt (training centre for trade and commerce)		3		
		Part-time vocational school for commercial management professions		14	50
		Two-year full-time vocational school for business		10	15
		Full-time vocational school III - training for commercial assistants		5	15

Tables for Schleswig-Holstein

		Vocational <i>Gymnasium</i> for business (Danish – beginner level)		12	45
		Vocational <i>Gymnasium</i> for business (Danish – intermediate level)		9	35
NMS	RBZ Elly-Heuss-Knapp-Schule		2		
		Technical school for social pedagogy		6	17
		Vocational <i>Gymnasium</i> for biotechnology, food, health and education (two-year full-time vocational school; specialised upper secondary school)		12	60
NF	BS Husum		3		
		Part-time vocational school for retail		2	18
		Vocational <i>Gymnasium</i> for food/nutrition, technology, business studies and economics		9	34
		Vocational <i>Gymnasium</i> for food/nutrition, technology, business studies and economics		12	102
NF	BS Niebüll		4		
		Two-year full-time vocational school for business		4	8
		Vocational <i>Gymnasium</i> for agriculture, food/nutrition, technology and business		41	200
		Full-time vocational school III – training for commercial assistants		5	2
SL	BBZ Schleswig		3		
		Part-time vocational school for commercial management professions		2	16
		Technical school for social pedagogy			

Tables for Schleswig-Holstein

		Vocational <i>Gymnasium</i> for food/nutrition, technology and health and social professions		25	118
OH	BS Oldenburg		1		
		Vocational <i>Gymnasium</i>		12	57
		Part-time vocational school		2	21
Total	8 schools		24	257	1,067

Tables for Schleswig-Holstein

8.	Boy-Lorn-sen primary school, Tinnum/Sylt ⁹	public	1*	2	40	1	24	0.5	18	0.5	9																4	91
9.	Niebüll comprehensive school ^{10/11}	public	1																								0	0
10.	Amrum primary and comprehensive school ¹²	public	3	1	17	1	23	0.5	12	0.5	9	0.5	1	0.5	5	0.5	0	0.5	5	0.5	1	0.5	2			6	75	
11.	Eilun Feer Skuul, Wyk/Föhr (comprehensive and secondary school) ¹³	public	4									1	3	1	6					1	6	1	6	8	37	12	58	
12.	Danske Skole Sylt ¹⁴	Danish	1	1	12	1	11	1	13																	3	36	
13.	Danske Skole Niebüll ¹⁵	Danish	1*			1	8																			1	8	
14.	Risum Skole ¹⁶	Danish	4	1	7	1	9			1	6	1	4	0.5	5	0.5	1	0.5	2	0.5	4					6	38	
Total for all schools																											70	751

Tables for Schleswig–Holstein

¹ Primary school

² Frisian no longer taught as teacher retired in February 2022.

³ Mixed study group for 1st+2nd and 3rd+4th grades

⁴ In 2nd grade, two additional hours of bilingual teaching in basic science

⁵ LÖSCHEN!

⁶ Frisian study group in 1st+2nd grades, in weekly rotation

⁷ In 2nd grade, two additional hours of bilingual teaching in basic science (numbers in brackets)

⁸ Mixed study group for 1st+2nd and 3rd+4th grades

⁹ Mixed study group for 3rd+4th grades

¹⁰ LÖSCHEN!

¹¹ Frisian not currently taught as teacher currently on parental leave

¹² Mixed study group for 3rd+4th and 5th+6th grades; mixed lessons (as optional subject) in 7th to 10th grades

¹³ Optional lessons in 5th+6th grades; mixed lessons (as optional subject) for 9th+10th grades; beginners' foreign language classes for 11th–13th grades; one teacher currently on parental leave; one teacher on secondment from the Ferring Foundation

¹⁴ Mixed lessons for 1st+2nd grades

¹⁵ Mixed study group for 2nd to 5th grades

¹⁶ Lessons in mixed groups for 1st+2nd, 4th+5th and 6th to 9th grades

* Teacher on secondment from another school

As at: 6 September 2021; information from Lena Grützmacher, federal state advisor for Frisian at the Institute for Quality Development at Schools in Schleswig-Holstein (IQSH).

¹ Frisian teacher on secondment from Südtondern special school

² Frisian teacher on secondment from Föhr-Land primary school: Midlum premises

³ Frisian teacher on secondment from St Nicolai primary school, Westerland

⁴ Frisian teacher on secondment from Boy-Lornsen primary school, Tinum/Sylt

⁵ Frisian teacher on secondment from Boy-Lornsen primary school, Tinum/Sylt

Note: Frisian lessons are no longer taught at the Alwin-Lensch school (Niebüll), the Niebüll comprehensive school and Öömring Skuul (due to retirement, parental leave and secondment of teachers).