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

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



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Direzione Centrale per i Diritti Civili, la Cittadinanza e le Minoranze

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ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FRAMEWORK

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NATIONAL MINORITIES

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Introduction

Over the years, Italy has strengthened the protection and promotion of national minorities on its territory, achieving a far reaching level of protection and guarantee of their rights, including through timely legislative interventions.

In order to implement the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, which has now reached its 6th Monitoring Cycle and this Report on Italy, the Ministry of the Interior is engaged in collecting information and data on the protection of linguistic minorities throughout the national territory, through the invaluable contribution of the Prefectures and in synergy and collaboration with the territorial authorities, as well as with the various relevant Administrations.

The outcome of the Fifth State Report, drafted in 2019, together with the recommendations of the Fifth Opinion transposed in the Resolution adopted by the Council of Europe (hereinafter CoE)- Resolution CM/Res CMN (2023)4 of 5 April 2023 - have also been published, and are currently available for consultation, on the website of the Ministry of the Interior, which links to the CoE portal, at the following link <http://www.libertaciviliimmigrazione.dlci.interno.gov.it/it/notizie/convenzione-quadro-protezione-delle-minoranze-nazionali-quinto-parere> .

Since the start of the first monitoring cycles, dialogue with European and international bodies has been important, as well as interaction and cooperation with the Offices, Administrations and all actors interested in the full implementation and extension of the protection of all minorities.

In particular, constant attention has been paid to what the Council of Europe has pointed out over the years and action has been taken by incorporating the indications contained in the



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resolution of the previous monitoring cycle (Resolution CM/ResCMN-2017 of 5 July 2017) even in the Fifth State Report especially with reference to the protection of numerically smaller historical minorities.

The importance of the activities carried out by CONFEMILI (National Federal Committee of National Minorities in Italy) and by the "Institutional Joint Committee for the Problems of the Slovene Minority" (established by Constitutional Law No. 1/1963, art. 3, approving the Special Statute of Friuli-Venezia Giulia) are also worth mentioning- their contributions are attached in the appendix to this Report – these two bodies have cooperated so much in the development and expansion of the protection of national minorities, constantly providing a precise frame of reference regarding the level of implementation of the guarantee instruments provided for.

In addition, the work of other important territorial associations and, last but not least, of ARLEF (the Regional Agency for the Friulian Language), deserves mentioning.

The achievements, particularly the findings and updates that will be highlighted in this Report, are the result of the constant attention that Italy pays to the implementation of the Convention and to the protection of the linguistic minorities present in its territory.

As far as historical minorities are concerned, as is well known, the reference regulatory framework attained a high level of recognition with the introduction of Law no. 482 of 15 December 1999, which places Italy in the forefront of the European panorama. The above mentioned piece of legislation is supplemented by Law no. 38 of 23 February 2001, specifically addressed to the Slovene minority, which has enriched the scope of protection in terms of the objectives and resources that are employed.

The appropriations allocated to linguistic minorities, despite the particular economic situation and expenditure restrictions, continue to be significant; moreover, in some Regions, State



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appropriations are supplemented by regional resources aimed at protecting specific local minorities.

After consulting the Technical Advisory Committee for the Protection of Historical Linguistic Minorities, the Department of Regional Affairs and Autonomies of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers allocates funding and takes care of every activity aimed at financing minorities and promotes comparative and study activities on the subject together with the above mentioned body.

In addition to the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages is also specifically aimed at protecting minorities.

Italy's process of becoming party to the Charter is in progress: the ratification bills are currently being examined by the parliamentary committees in their reporting capacity (in particular, the 1st - Constitutional Affairs and the 3rd - Foreign Affairs).

However, Italy has particularly advanced national legislation on the protection of historical linguistic minorities in implementation of Article 6 of its Constitution.

With regard to the protection of the Roma and Sinti Communities (hereinafter RS), through the work of the National Anti-Racial Discrimination Office - UNAR, the National Strategy for Inclusion and Participation RS 2021-2030 is implemented, which, in application of the CoE Recommendation of 12 March 2021 (2021/C93/01), in addition to the four priority axes - housing, health, education, employment - pursues and devotes particular attention to the fight against anti-Gypsyism and to the inclusion and participation of these communities.

The focus of the surveys carried out by the Ministry of the Interior on the Roma and Sinti communities in the territory, and the related report that follows, concerned in particular housing and the so-called "housing transition".



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In the pursuit of effective inclusion of the communities in question, particular attention was also paid to the issue of statelessness - a condition in which members of Roma communities often find themselves.

The activity carried out by the Observatory for Security against Discriminatory Acts - OSCAD, established within the Ministry of the Interior - Department of Public Security is also particularly important in connection with the safeguarding of all national minorities. OSCAD operates precisely with the aim of facilitating members of minorities in the full enjoyment of their right to equality before the law and protection against discrimination.

This report was organised precisely with the intention of referring to what the Council of Europe indicated in the Guidelines drawn up in July 2022 and, above all, in the above mentioned recommendations of 5 April 2023 addressed to Italy at the conclusion of the previous monitoring cycle. This was done in order to give greater importance to the elements of progress, updates and numerous initiatives undertaken to protect national minorities as recommended by the Council of Europe itself.

Finally, the results of the monitoring conducted with specific reference to historical linguistic minorities and the so-called minorities without territory (RS) complete the work.



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CHAPTER I

THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TO PROTECT NATIONAL MINORITIES

FUNDING FOR MINORITIES

With regard to the protection of historical minorities, Law no. 482 of 15 December 1999, implementing Article 6 of the Constitution, is aimed at protecting the twelve historical linguistic minorities recognised by law on Italian territory (Catalan, Ladin, Greek, Germanic, Croatian, Sardinian, Occitan, Franco-Provençal, French, Albanian, Slovenian and Friulian).

As mentioned above, the Department for Regional Affairs and Autonomies of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers is in charge of allocating the funds for the yearly funding of the projects submitted by State administrations and local authorities, pursuant to Articles 9 and 15 of the above-mentioned law; the allocation methods are described in a specific implementing regulation (Presidential Decree no. 345 of 2 May 2001, section 8).

In particular, in order to obtain the funding provided, the local administrations based in the territories delimited by the implementation of the 1999 law, submit to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, through the Regions (with the exception of the State administrations which autonomously submit to the above mentioned Department) the projects concerning the following sectors of intervention: language desks, language training, toponymy and cultural activities.

As regards the amount of available resources, when assessed referring to the last two years, that there has been a decrease (clearly depending on the difficult economic situation) of the appropriations made available for the purposes of intervention under Law No. 482/99.



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This being said, the financial data referring to 2022 and 2023 and the related allocations made for each minority language are indicated below.

In particular, a 3% share is separated from the total amount of the annual fund to be earmarked for the State Administrations; the remaining amount is then shared out among the local and territorial authorities, on the basis of the evaluation of the projects they submitted, after the shares directly assigned to the Friuli-Venezia Giulia and Sardinia Regions for the Slovene, Catalan and Sardinian minorities have been set aside.

- **Year 2022**

<u>Total fund amount:</u>	6,054,693.00 €
<u>3% allocated to State Administrations:</u>	181,641.00 €
<u>Allocations of the 2022 fund by minority:</u>	
Albanian	370,646.00 €
Croatian	83,803.75 €
French	238,310.00 €
Franco-provençal	349,960,00 €
Friulian	42,730.00 €
Germanic	112,103.60 €
Greek	199,560.00 €
Ladin	260,130.00 €
Occitan	535,477.76 €
<u>Total local authorities:</u>	2,192,721.11 €



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Direct allocation to the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region: 1,199,922.00 €

Direct allocation to the Sardinia Region: 1,486,058,00 €

Non allocated residual sum: 1,141,573,89 €

- **Year 2023**

Total fund amount: 4,200,333.89 €

3% allocated to State Administrations: 126,010.02 €

Allocation of the 2023 fund by minority:

Albanian 649,567.23 €

Croatian 69,693.00 €

French 196,400.00 €

Franco provençal 412,720.00 €

Friulian 19,154.95 €

Germanic 114,562.00 €

Greek 83,250.00 €

Ladin 225,274.00 €

Occitan 526,326.25 €

Total local authorities: 2,296,947.43 €

Direct allocation to the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region: 826,494.65 €

Direct allocation to the Sardinia Region: 1,045,104.81 €



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EDUCATION

As regards education and more specifically the system of education in relation to historical minorities, the measures adopted to improve the level of implementation of the Framework Convention and specially to comply with the Recommendations addressed to Italy at the end of the V cycle are listed below.

Resolution CM/Res CMN(2023)4 on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by Italy

(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 5 April 2023 at the 1462nd meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)

Recommendations for immediate action

4. Guarantee an adequate supply of teachers trained in the teaching of minority languages and/or teachers capable of teaching other subjects in the minority languages as well as to improve support to training and enrollment of teachers of minority languages, granting special attention to the needs of numerically smaller minorities.

Further recommendations

12. Provide adequate funding for the teaching of minority languages in order to ensure that teaching in/of minority languages is constant when pupils and students belonging to language minorities, including the numerically smaller ones, study in schools that are located outside traditional settlement areas and review the framework of teaching of/in the minority languages in close cooperation with the representatives of minorities in order to meet educational needs in a better way; in addition provide funding to cultural and linguistic centres or associations as well as to universities in order to support the publication of texts and didactic material in minority languages.



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National Network of Schools with Minority Languages

As previously announced in the Vth monitoring cycle over the last two years the Ministry of Education and Merit has promoted the establishment, of a National Network of schools with minority languages whose leading Institute was identified through a special call for applications submitted by first-cycle schools. The 'Sabatini' Comprehensive Institute of Borgia (CZ) was identified as the pivot school for the administrative-accounting management of the Network and the implementation of promotion, coordination and support activities.

The establishment of the National Network is an important opportunity to relaunch various initiatives supporting the educational institutions engaged in the development of minority language teaching, since it is a "place" where meeting and permanent debate on didactic, methodological, evaluative and organisational issues of minority language teaching are possible.

At present, some 30 educational institutions have joined the network.

The Network aims to help schools overcome and solve isolation, to promote cultural and ethno-linguistic diversity by fostering understanding, tolerance, and the broadening of knowledge and cultural interests. The Network aims to promote and share training actions in order to constructively and effectively interact with each other, disseminate good practices and produce materials for the teaching of minority languages, and cooperate with local entities (authorities, agencies, associations, universities, etc.).

The primary need that was felt by the schools in the Network was to start working together on teacher training, aimed at the development of common training paths that could then be transferred into the specific territorial realities, taking into account the needs of each minority language. To this end, the Network is constantly encouraged to involve universities, linguistic and



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cultural institutes in its activities, also for the production of teaching materials that can be subsequently kept record of and disseminated.

National training and research project "Integrated local curriculum and production of teaching materials in minority languages"

The **MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND MERIT** has promoted teacher training through the funding of a national training and research project called "Integrated local curriculum and production of teaching materials in minority languages" with the intention of addressing two fundamental aspects in the teaching of minority languages recognised by Law 482/1999 and more specifically:

- the development of a local vertical curriculum, consistent and integrated with the National Indications for the curriculum of pre-school and first cycle of education of 2012, with particular reference to primary school;
- the activation of a guided research pathway for the production of innovative, systematic, structured and interdisciplinary teaching materials in minority languages for primary schools capable of effectively incorporating the local curriculum.

Both the activation of the above mentioned National Network and the promotion of the above mentioned Training and Research Pathway actually respond to the need to support the training of qualified minority language teachers, especially in small scale schools where it is more difficult for individual schools to liaise with local authorities, associations or cultural bodies for the activation of training paths.

The distinctive elements of the training and research paths are:

- the involvement of more than 30 schools and more than 70 primary school teachers from the various communities where the 12 minority languages are spoken (in particular, 10 regions with



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the following minority languages were involved: Friulian, Sardinian, Ladin, Slovenian, Croatian, Arberesh, Occitan, Franco-Provençal, Greek of Calabria and Salento Greek)

- the scientific support of a special Technical Scientific Committee made up by academics and experts with proven professionalism, skills and experience in the field of minority languages, didactic innovation and teacher training, with particular reference to language teaching and CLIL (Content and language integrated learning)
- an operational approach to the activities of planning, elaboration of materials and classroom experimentation, with organisation of the trainees in virtual classes managed by tutors with facilitation and mediation tasks, as well as support within an e-learning platform;
- involvement of the academic world and other subjects working in the field of linguistic minorities (e.g. collaboration with Arlef for the provision of textbooks in Friulian as good practice in the production of teaching materials in minority languages);
- production, validation and dissemination of minority language teaching materials;
- involvement of the contact persons of the regional school offices

The national project, currently being drawn up, is divided into two phases:

1. The first national phase of activation of the training and research path, intended for primary school teachers belonging to the educational institutions belonging to the National Network of schools with minority languages, has already taken place at the start of the 2023/2024 school year with the national seminar held in Catanzaro Lido from 18 to 20 October 2023 in which the student teachers were guided, with the support of the technical scientific committee established with D.D. (Director's Decree) n. 1753 of 19 September 2023, in the design of learning units in the minority language systematically included into the curriculum and consistent with the 2012 national indications from a linguistic, methodological and subject oriented point of view.
2. The subsequent phase of territorial development of the training and educational research path



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is being implemented in the 2023/2024 school year and takes the form of classroom testing of previously designed learning units and the development of materials for each minority language curricular teaching, both in terms of language and subjects. During the experimentation period, the student teachers will adapt the common curricular educational paths generally defined in the first phase of the national project to the specificities of the individual minority language, the territorial context and that of the individual class involved. In this phase, a path of support, supervision and monitoring of the student teachers' activities is envisaged by the Technical Scientific Committee through a Moodle e-learning platform made available by ANILS (National Association of Foreign Language Teachers) which will allow periodic online meetings of clarification and in-depth methodological-didactic and linguistic analysis, ongoing verification of the path with possible personalized interventions, as well as discussion forums for the exchange of experiences and sharing of the materials produced.

In order to guarantee an operational approach to the design activities, development of materials and experimentation in the classroom, the student teachers are organized into virtual classes based on the classes in which they work daily: a group will develop teaching materials aimed at the two-year period (1st and 2nd class centered on linguistic and multilingual learning in a minority language) and a second/third group will deal with the production of CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning) materials for the 3rd, 4th, 5th classes.

The facilitation and mediation tasks, as well as the support within the e-learning platform, are carried out by three classroom tutors identified on the basis of proven skills in the linguistic-foreign language teaching, communication and technological fields in the management of virtual groups.

The path will end with a final seminar to be held in June 2024 in which the developed teaching materials will be presented, shared and disseminated.



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With specific reference to the Slovene minority, the "Permanent Institutional Table on Issues concerning the Slovene Minority in Italy" carries out an important activity; the Table was established by decree of the Ministry of the Interior on 4 July 2012 and in this framework important results have been achieved over the years in terms of expanding protection for this community. As regards education in particular, as a result of the last meeting of the Table - held in Rome on 15 November 2023 - and in response to the requests explicitly made in this regard by the Slovene minority, the Ministry of Education and Merit has provided for the identification of a single contact person, at central level, to deal with all the requests coming from the Slovene community, as well as the recognition of an actual autonomy and "specificity" of the Regional School Office provided for in art. 13, paragraph 1, law no. 38/2001 for the handling of matters concerning the teaching of the sloven language.

In connection with the "education" axis the following is reported with a specific connection with the Roma and Sinti communities

The Ministry of Education and Merit places the issue of the Roma and Sinti minorities in the more far reaching perspective of intercultural integration.

1. The latest Guidelines for schools document dates back to March 2022 and it is entitled: "Intercultural orientations. ideas and proposals for the integration of pupils with a migrant background". In this document reference is made not only to "pupils with non-Italian citizenship", this is the definition used by our statistical system, but also to pupils and students who, regardless of citizenship, are bearers of sensitivity and origins that enrich the multicultural and multilingual fabric of Italian schools. And in this regard, "pupils belonging to Roma and Sinti groups" are mentioned, as well as international adoptees or unaccompanied minors and refugees. The intercultural orientations contain various innovations but also aim to reiterate regulations, principles, ideas already



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indicated in previous documents which were forgotten or neglected, or not implemented. For example: The right and duty to education, regardless of the origin or conditions of the minors. The document says that it is necessary to reiterate this principle "to counter unacceptable events and unfortunately still widespread cases of failed or delayed inclusion".

This is an important point that also concerns Roma and Sinti children and young people, sometimes at the center of missed or delayed inclusion. The new Guidelines also aim at drawing attention on the weakest groups of the school population after the long period of the pandemic which worsened inequalities and critical issues: particularly with regard to Roma and Sinti pupils, in addition to pupils with disabilities and pupils in poor social contexts. The title itself of the new document places emphasis on the intercultural perspective. It indicates that these "Guidelines" are intended for everyone, Italians, children of immigrants and students of different cultural backgrounds. The word "Interculture" means that cultural, linguistic and pluralism of points of view is, or rather can be, an advantage for everyone. While the formula "integration of foreign students" in the title of the previous documents placed the emphasis above all on actions aimed at foreign students.

2 The actions of the European AMIF program (asylum, migration, integration fund)

The new document was followed by an action plan, to give operational continuity to what is contained in the intercultural orientations. These actions are contained in the AMIF (Asylum Migration and Integration Fund) 2021/2027 call, operational from the 2023/2024 school year (deadline for the submission of projects by schools at the end of October 2023). The regional school offices were involved and could designate a hub school in the region for the coordination and management of the projects. The tender was primarily intended for schools, which in turn could involve associations and institutions. The Fund amounts to 25 million euros, divided on a regional basis, and the main actions indicated are: Promotion of the inclusion of children in



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nursery schools; Language learning; Involvement of families; Prevention of school failure, falling behind and early leave; Enhancement of schools in contexts of social complexity and urban periphery, and training of school staff in such contexts. These are actions, particularly the last ones, which cater for the conditions and needs of Roma and Sinti pupils, and of the school staff who work in these schools.

3 National project for the inclusion and integration of Roma, Sinti and Caminanti children, for the five-year period 2024/2029

The integration program for Roma and Sinti children, coordinated by the **Ministry of Labor and Social Policies**, started in 2013, and it is funded with resources from the NOP Inclusion Fund it has been confirmed for the next five years

The National Project for the Inclusion and Integration of Roma, Sinti and Caminanti (Rsc) Children, promoted by the Ministry of Labor and Social Policies as part of the actions of the 2014-2020 NOP "Inclusion" and implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Merit, the Ministry of Health and the Istituto degli Innocenti, continues with the new planning of the National Plan for Inclusion and Poverty Fight 2021-2027 of the Ministry of Labour

In the national training seminar of 26/27 October 2023, in Florence at the Istituto degli Innocenti, an assessment of the ongoing actions was taken, with the participation of teachers, social workers active with the Roma communities, operators from the Municipalities of the cities involved in the national program

In fact, by Directorial Decree No. 24 of February 5, 2024, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies – General Directorate on the Fight against Poverty and Planning approved a Notice to submit projects for the inclusion and integration of Roma, Sinti and Caminanti children and adolescents, to be funded under Priority 2 "Child Guarantee" - Specific Objective ESO4.11.



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The Notice is addressed to Social Districts (ATS) throughout Italy and intends to implement, starting from the experimentation implemented under NOP Inclusion 2014-2020, a series of integrated interventions aimed at strengthening the social inclusion and integration of Roma and Sinti children and adolescents, as well as their families.

The funding amounts to 40,000,000 euros, from the European Social Fund plus (ESF+).

The Project was established in 2013 as an experimental path within the framework of the initiatives of Law 285/97, promoted in 13 Italian cities. In 2017 the path was reinforced within the framework of the NOP Inclusion, organising the initiatives in two three-year periods from 2017 to 2020 and 2021 to 2023. Over the years, the Project has expanded constantly the involvement of new territories, new schools and therefore new target students and has achieved important results, as also confirmed by the monitoring and evaluation activities carried out since the first year (see publications on the website www.progettonazionale.rsc.it). In the first year of the experimental project in fact, 29 schools, 47 classes, 150 Roma, Sinti and Caminanti students and about 800 total pupils (Roma and non-Roma) were involved; in the last year, 2023, there were 123 schools involved, about 400 classes and 719 RSC students and more than 8000 total students involved in the schools.

Among the most obvious results of combating early school leaving we highlight furthermore the significant improvement in average attendance at school, a central element in promoting improved educational performance and social inclusion.

Attendance monitoring showed how pupils who have only been included in the Project for one year have average attendance of 58 percent in primary and 38 percent in secondary, while



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those involved for more than five years around 75 percent in both school orders. This shows how in the medium term the results of the Project are significant, fostering a substantial increase in average attendance between 20 percent and nearly 40 percent by countering school dropout and the dropout phenomenon. Also important is the number of transitions from lower secondary school to higher vocational or more structured pathways.

No less important is the care of the relationship between teachers and families. Monitoring of activities shows an increase in the number of RSC parents' meetings with teachers and, more generally, a better participation of these in school activities. An essential element, this, so that children feel supported by families in their school efforts and, at the same time, do not feel their parents' educational role devalued by the school.

The objectives of the new Project for the inclusion and integration of Roma and Sinti children and adolescents, in continuity with the previous one, are:

- Countering school dropout of Roma and Sinti minors
- Improvement of school inclusion and educational success of Roma and Sinti minors
- Improving access to social and health services for RSC minors and their families
- Consolidation of sustainable intercity and multisectoral governance
- Consolidation of the national network

The new Project is addressed, as direct recipients, to RSC children and young people aged 3 to 18 and their families and, as indirect recipients, to all non-Roma children and young people enrolled in the classes and schools involved in the Project, school staff, managers and operators of the social and socio-health sectors, the third sector and more generally the local network for inclusion.



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The intervention provides for national governance aimed at building a network of relationships involving ATS, operators, representatives of RSC communities and recipients of interventions. It provides for a modular articulation of actions and a double level of basic and advanced intervention. The activities are identified as modules that can be integrated with each other in relation to the characteristics of local contexts.

In short, the 6 modules, one of which is optional, into which the Project is divided are reported below:

Module 1 - Coordination activities

The coordination activity is the exclusive responsibility of the proposing entity (Ambito Territoriale Sociale). The figure of the coordinator performs transversal functions related to monitoring, control and coordination of activities.

Module 2 - - Participatory networking and governance.

The local network is a strategic area to be consolidated during the project implementation period to support activities in the school and housing contexts. The network also promotes the direct involvement of Roma and Sinti families, communities or representations in a truly shared planning perspective.

Module 3 - School and countering school dropout.

The objective of the Project is to create a school environment that reduces the risks of dropout by Roma and Sinti minors by building cooperative educational contexts conducive to learning, appreciation of differences and intercultural integration.

The activities take the form of: a) relationship activities with teachers and support during school hours b) training and supervision of teachers and other school figures (managers, ATA



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operators, etc.), including through awareness-raising interventions for preschool teachers. c) activation of educational and creative workshops in project classes, aimed at developing teaching, relational, communication and effective conflict management skills.

Module 4 - After-school socio-didactic activity.

The module for out-of-school socio-educational support will also be crucial to counter the widespread drop-out phenomenon and promote inclusion. After-school socio-educational support is aimed at promoting work on teaching skills, social and interpersonal skills and, where there is a need, language skills.

Module 5 - Social activities.

The module involves social and social inclusion activities aimed at RSC children and their families. The work in camps or other residential settings is aimed at integrating the objectives of school support with those aimed at promoting the overall health and well-being of the minor in relation to his or her family by promoting, in particular, access to social and socio-health services.

Module 6 - Meal (optional)

This module is not mandatory, but activated according to the demand and needs expressed by the territory and the educational institutions involved. This provides for the provision of a meal for groups of Roma and Sinti - and other - children and young people. This is an additional action that aims to strengthen extracurricular support particularly where there are no full-time elementary school, and for the benefit of girls and boys in lower and upper secondary school.



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TRAINING AND CULTURE

In the framework of its institutional activities the **MINISTRY OF CULTURE** incorporates and implements the principles and provisions of the Framework Convention of the Council of Europe for the Protection of National Minorities, particularly through cultural and training interventions and projects for the protection of national minorities.

This is reflected, for example, in the activities of the **General Directorate for Performing Arts**, which is responsible for disbursing FUS contributions (Single Performing Arts Fund) according to the July 2017 Decree, "Criteria and methods for the disbursement, advance payment, and settlement of contributions to live performances, covered by the Single Fund for the Performing Arts as per Law No. 163 of April 30, 1985." Specifically, Article 11 of the above mentioned Decree explicitly mentions theatres of linguistic minorities for the allocation of contributions for operating expenses.

Since 1998 within the **General Directorate of Education, Research, and Cultural Institutes**, there is the **Center for Educational Services (Sed)**. It operates based on Articles 118 and 119 of the Code of Cultural Heritage and Landscape and its task is to promote education on cultural heritage to all types of audiences, aiming to increase knowledge, participation, and communication in the field of cultural assets. Its function is to coordinate state educational services located in cultural venues (archaeological areas, museums, archives, libraries, and the territory) in a systemic approach aimed at taking responsibility for cultural heritage for the development of citizenship and social integration. In particular, these structures also have the tasks of designing inclusion projects in collaboration with local associations and communities, as well as developing tools to facilitate access to culture for people with various cultural backgrounds, including those in socially disadvantaged conditions.



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More specifically, a number of initiatives are listed below; they refer to protection of national minorities and they are carried out by the Ministry of Culture.

1. In 2022, the **National Library of Naples** collaborated with the Department of Albanian Language and Literature at the University of Naples "L 'Orientale." These two institutions organized the conference "Naples: Cultural Center for the Albanian and Arbëreshe World" (Palazzo du Mesnil, June 20-21, 2022) to commemorate the bicentenary of the death of Angelo Masci, an Italian-Albanian writer, and a group of Albanian intellectuals in Naples in the nineteenth century. In the circumstance, the Library authorized the anastatic edition of Angelo Masci's work *Discourse on the origin, customs and current state of the Albanian Nation* (Fondazione Universitaria Francesco Solano, 2023) and contributed various essays to the conference proceedings (UNIOR press 2023).

2. Since 2019, the **State Archive of Gorizia** has been actively engaged in initiatives aimed at safeguarding and promoting its archival heritage, with a specific focus on facilitating access for Italian citizens belonging to the Slovenian linguistic minority and Slovenian citizens from across the border. These groups constitute a significant portion of the overall user base, both in-person and remotely.

In particular, efforts have been directed towards the digitization of research tools such as archival inventories and finding aids. A comprehensive review and standardization process has been initiated for the personal data contained in the collection titled "Draft Lists of the Municipalities of the Province of Gorizia" spanning the years 1888-1953. Recognizing the importance of aiding users in searching for their ancestors, the State Archive staff has developed Excel files to index individual names associated with registration numbers from the Municipalities of the district, with a majority pertaining to the Slovenian population (including territories ceded to Yugoslavia in 1947).



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Regrettably, the previous editorial team did not incorporate diacritical signs typical of the Slovenian language in the drafting of personal names and toponyms. Consequently, a comprehensive revision was undertaken, resulting in the publication of 34,000 revised nominative records in August. The ongoing work continues to progress steadily.

In anticipation of the upcoming event where the neighbouring cities of Gorizia (Italy) and Nova Gorica (Slovenia) will be designated as the "European Capital of Culture 2025," plans are in place to translate at least a portion of the institutional website <http://archivodistatogorizia.cultura.gov.it> into Slovenian. This translation will focus on essential elements, such as fonts and search tools (online archival inventories), which are currently available only in the Italian language.

Since December 1st, 2023, a dedicated staff unit with expertise in the Croatian and Slovenian languages (AFAV profile) has been operational at the Institute. The unit is equipped with advanced linguistic skills, both written and spoken, to cater to the needs of users requiring support in these languages. As regards Friulian, at least three employees understand and speak this language in the local varieties.

3. The Central Institute for Intangible Heritage (ICPI) works to safeguard and enhance ethnoanthropological, material and intangible cultural heritage, and the expressions of cultural and linguistic diversity present on the national territory.

With specific reference to the topic of linguistic minorities, the ICPI carries out, promotes and collaborates in documentation, research and dissemination activities, with local authorities, public and private bodies, universities and research centres.

In this regard, we note the initiatives recently planned and implemented by the Institute:

- The Italians of Elsewhere (<https://icpi.beniculturali.it/435/>)



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Project aimed at promoting and enhancing the knowledge of the linguistic communities present in the Italian territory. Series of meetings held between 2012 and 2018, each dedicated to a different linguistic minority.

- Peoples without frontiers. Food and rites of historical linguistic minorities in Italy, AA.VV., Bra, Slow Food, Editore, Roma, Ministero dei Beni e delle Attività Culturali e del Turismo, Pollenzo, Università degli Studi di Scienze Gastronomiche, 2016

Published in 2016, a collection of anthropologists and scholars of Italian gastronomic traditions. The text analyzes the gastronomic traditions of Italian linguistic minorities, investigated and interpreted in the light of the deep connection that unites them to the festive and ritual time. The texts of the volume examine in particular the festive cuisine of the Occitani, the Friulani, the Slovenians of Friuli, the Croats of Molise, the Griki of Salento and the Arbëreschë of Calabria.
<http://www.idea.mat.beniculturali.it/attivita/pubblicazioni/2012-2016/item/590-2016-popoli-senzafrontiere-cibi-e-riti-delle-minoranze-linguistiche-storiche-d-italia>

Peoples without frontiers vol. 2. Traditions and territories of the historical linguistic minorities of Trentino. Cimbri, Ladini and Mòcheni, Ricerche Series - ICPI (edited by) Valentina Santonico e Roberto Galasso, Effigi editore, Arcidosso, 2022: Volume aimed at enhancing certain aspects of the intangible cultural heritage of the three linguistic minorities present in the Autonomous Province of Trento (Cimbri, Ladini and Mòcheni). Summary of a field research and related photographic documentation. <http://www.cpadver-effigi.com/blog/popoli-senza-frontiera-icpi/>

- The contemporaneity of tradition. Views of the Cimbrian, Ladin and Mòchena communities at the Museo degli Usi e Costumi della Gente Trentina in San Michele all'Adige



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(TN), 30 June-30 September 2022: Visually return of contents developed in the connected volume. Photographs by Roberto Galasso.

<https://icpi.beniculturali.it/la-contemporaneita-della-tradizione-sguardi-sulle-comunita-cimbraladina-e-mochena-un-volume-e-una-mostra-fotografica-per-raccontare-le-minoranze-linguistiche-storiche-del-trentino/>

- Future in Arbëria: visions of women. Research Series - ICPI Lorenzo Fortunati, Effigi editore, Arcidosso, 2022 - Collection of microbiographs and photographic research with focus on the role of women in a minority linguistic community aberesche and its role as an agent of regeneration and transmission of elements of cultural heritage. <http://www.cpadver-effigi.com/blog/futuro-in-arberia-visions-di-donne-lorenzo-fortunati/>

Further collaborations on the topic of linguistic minorities:

- Save your local language. National literary award for works in local dialect or language: Memorandum of Understanding between UNPLI Unione delle Pro Loco d'Italia and ICPI, technical-scientific collaboration.

- Collaboration agreement with the University of Bergamo and Atlante Linguistico Italiano for the purpose of establishing an Observatory on national and international linguistic minorities and related activities A conference on local languages is being organized for February 21.

- Call for proposals "Attractiveness of villages" - Line A - Pilot projects for the cultural, social and economic regeneration of villages at risk of abandonment and abandoned:



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Cooperation agreement with the Municipality of Palù del Fersina of the Autonomous Province of Trento. Scientific coordination for the creation of the "Forum of linguistic minorities".

4. On May 21st, the **Regional Directorate of Museums of Puglia** will commemorate the "World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development," as proclaimed by the United Nations

General Assembly in Resolution 57/249. As part of this observance, a guided tour in Albanian will be provided at the National Archaeological Museum of Altamura, catering to the significant Albanian community residing in the municipality.

5. The **State Archive of Palermo**, in reference to recommendation no. 11 of "Resolution CM/ResCMN (2023)4 on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by Italy" concerning the sensitization of "education professionals on the cultures and traditions of linguistic minorities, respectively Rom, Sinti, and religious groups, as well as on their historical presence and their contribution to Italian society," through the activities offered by its educational services, has developed the documentary path entitled "Multiculturalism in the Mediterranean area through the documents of the State Archive of Palermo". This pathway aims to depict encounters and interactions that took place in Sicily and the Mediterranean region among various ethnic and linguistic communities from the medieval to the modern era, including the Rom and Sinti communities. These interactions have been documented since 1547 in the archival collection of the Protonotary of the Kingdom, providing evidence of the acknowledgment of these communities by the central authorities in Sicily at that time and the significant autonomy granted to them in civil and judicial matters.



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ACCESS TO RADIO AND TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

With regard to the aspects connected to the dissemination of minority language and culture, the stipulation of special agreements between **RAI - RADIOTELEVISIONE ITALIANA S.p.A. and the Presidency of the Council of Ministers** is undoubtedly important; these agreements have strengthened the radio, television and multimedia offer dedicated to minority languages, involving the minorities themselves both in the definition of the contents of the agreement and in the monitoring and verification of the results.

In response to these requirements, the following agreements were renewed, the content of which present significant qualitative and/or quantitative improvements over the previous offer:

1. Convention for the French language in Valle d'Aosta;
2. Convention for the Slovene and Italian languages in Friuli Venezia Giulia;
3. Convention for the Friulian language in Friuli Venezia Giulia;
4. Convention for the Sardinian language in Sardinia.

A first, important response to the needs expressed by the linguistic minorities is represented precisely by the provision of a separate, autonomous convention for each of the minorities concerned.

Within each convention, moreover, provision is made for the establishment of a special 'Steering and Monitoring Committee', in response to the explicit requests of the various regional communities. These Committees is made up by representatives of the Department for Information and Publishing of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, of Rai and of the Regions; their aim is favouring the involvement of the relevant Regions in the activities covered by the Conventions.



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As far as contents are concerned the new Conventions envisage an increase of the overall offer, the stepping up of television broadcasts and the gradual passing to a new modality of using the digital contents in the web.

As of 30 October 2023, the above mention extended conventions have been renewed with unchanged contents.

INTERVENTIONS IN FAVOUR OF "MINORITIES WITHOUT A TERRITORIES"

With regard to the Roma, Sinti and Caminanti (RSC) communities, considered "without territory" and for this reason excluded from the protection law no. 482/1999, reference is made to the already mentioned **National Strategy for Inclusion and Participation RS 2021-2030**, which aims to extend the framework of intervention to new and priority axes, as illustrated in detail by UNAR in the following part.

The Italian legal framework also includes numerous laws passed by the Regions to ensure the best protection of RSC communities in the various areas of interest.

The well known main axes of the previous Strategy were: housing, health, education, work.

In the new national programme, these axes have been joined by other areas of investigation, of equal importance, connected above all to the need for a more incisive intervention, especially in the cultural sphere, aimed not only at overcoming the communities' condition of 'need', but also at satisfying their 'needs', even if though this may appear a utopian wish.

The collected data are illustrated below and they make it possible to detect good practices and provide elements for analysis and evaluation for further action.



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The activities of **ISTAT, UNAR and ANCI** are particularly worth mentioning; these bodies, together with the most representative RSC Associations and with the cooperation of all the institutions concerned contribute to acquiring increasingly precise elements and data - with continuous updates and important in-depth studies - on the Roma, Sinti and Caminanti Communities; they highlight good practices and critical issues being encountered. In this regard, the Fifth Report and the subsequent update of November 2021 – drawn up on the occasion of the visit of the CoE experts – contain all the references of the publications on this subject and they are also available online.

ISTITUTO NAZIONALE DI STATISTICA - ISTAT

In 2018, a collaboration agreement was signed between UNAR and ISTAT (REP/03/2018, of 1 March 2018), for the realization of a "Statistical Information Framework on social hardship and housing conditions of Roma, Sinti and Caminanti people "; this survey was concluded in December 2023.

The project used funds within the activities of the NOP Inclusion 2014-2020, for implementation of the interventions provided for in Axis 3 "Social intervention systems and models" (O.T. 9.i Ob. 9.2 Action 9.2.3) and in Axis 4 "Administrative capacity" (O.T. 11.i Ob. 11.1 Action 11.1.3) and responds to the needs expressed by the Communication of the European Commission No 173/2011, 2.4.6, and in particular the axis 4 of the inclusion strategy 2012-2020, on housing solutions and access to housing. This axis aims to "increase access to a wide range of housing solutions for RSC, in a participatory perspective of definitive overcoming of the emergency approach and large single-ethnic settlements and respecting local opportunities, of the family unit and a strategy based on fair placement." The main objectives were: to collect information on



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housing conditions and social distress of the group of RSC people living in conditions of high vulnerability; to study the degree of inclusion and access to services of RSC populations who have benefited from the actions provided within public housing transition projects and analyze how the process of housing transition affects the social inclusion of Roma people.

The survey was carried out in two steps:

1. The first step was aimed at defining the state of the art of housing transition projects implemented and realized in municipalities with over 15 thousand inhabitants, in addition of mapping settlements in the same territories. The survey identified projects aimed at housing inclusion of RSC people, identifying their characteristics and critical issues. It also made it possible to quantify both the households who took part in the transition projects implemented by the municipalities and moved to stable forms of housing, and those who still reside in the settlements. The results of this first survey were published in an e-book entitled "Living in transition", available at Istat website at <https://www.istat.it/it/archivio/254436>.

2. The second step of the survey, which ended in 2023, was aimed to collect information on housing conditions and access to a range of services deemed essential to assess the degree of inclusion of two specific population groups. The first group was made up by households who declare to belong to the Roma, Sinti and Caminanti groups that have moved from the settlements to stable housing forms and the second group was made up by households that declare to belong to the Roma, Sinti and Caminanti groups and that continue to live in the settlements. A total of 500 interviews were carried out. The data processing is being completed, but on the basis of the results obtained, inclusion indicators are going to be developed, which are useful for the evaluation of public policies for the inclusion of Roma people. The final results paper will be published in 2024.

The involvement of civil society and associations was stable in all phases of the project, from the design of the questionnaire especially for questions concerning the self-identification of the



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respondent belonging to the Roma populations, but also for questions concerning the minimum housing stock in the settlements. They were also involved to the extent of conducting interviews in which the associations belonging to the RSC platform established at UNAR have facilitated the conduct of interviews with transferred households involved in the survey; this element has been not only an aspect of innovation and productive comparison, but allowed to build a 'network' with the communities concerned. This will provide useful statistical information for the development of targeted inclusion policies.

As foreseen by the Inclusion Strategy, a Statistical Information Working Group on the Condition of RSC populations of which Istat is the coordinator, was set up. The Working Group aims to discuss, plan and launch a series of initiatives for the systematization of statistical sources and data relating to RSC people, with the aim of providing tools for the production and sharing of harmonized statistical information, as well as developing the capacity building of institutions and civil society. The Working Group involved both the Institutions (ministries, regions, local administrations), UNAR and representatives of the RSC associations that are part of the UNAR National Platform, as well as stakeholders and thematic and academic experts.

The Working Group represented a moment of aggregation and important exchange with civil society, associations, public bodies and academics.

UFFICIO NAZIONALE ANTIDISCRIMINAZIONI RAZZIALI - UNAR

With regard to the recommendations and issues that were put forward, most recently in the above mentioned Resolution CM/ResCMN(2023)4, by the Council of Europe on the protection of so-called minorities without a territory, the replies provided by UNAR with reference to the specific points subject to recommendation are listed below.



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Recommendations for immediate action

1) Take all necessary measures to elaborate and adopt at the national level a specific legislative framework for the protection of Roma, Sinti and Caminanti and the improvement of their socio-economic status, in consultation with the representatives of these communities at all stages of the process; in this regard, ensure that the right to free self-identification of Roma, Sinti and Caminanti is respected;

Unar is well aware that the goal of achieving minority status, whether related to cultural or linguistic specificities of the Roma and Sinti communities, would contribute historically to the recognition of the persecutions and extermination suffered, fostering closer ties between institutions, society, and the Roma and Sinti communities. This is part of a collective effort to overcome specific social and economic challenges affecting a portion of the Romani and Sinti populations. Considering the magnitude of obstacles, such as extreme marginalization of certain groups and widespread anti-Roma sentiments, hindering the attainment of this goal, UNAR, as the National Contact Point, will continue its coordination efforts and facilitate dialogue to strengthen proposals, experiences, and awareness gained by the directly involved parties.

In this regard, UNAR's position, both as the National Contact Point and as the national outpost against all forms of discrimination, is to stand alongside the associations committed to recognition, ensuring every form of support, including logistical and financial assistance.

Further recommendations:

5) Take all necessary measures to address the *de facto* statelessness or the risk of statelessness of persons belonging to the Roma community;

As is well known, the issue of so-called *de facto* statelessness, primarily affecting refugees from the former Yugoslavia and their descendants, has consistently been at the forefront of attention for both institutions and civil society in Italy. In recent years, however, regulatory changes introduced in citizenship acquisition laws—coupled with concrete support from local authorities and civil society—have significantly reduced the quantitative dimension of individuals belonging to the Roma and Sinti minority facing documentary-related issues. From an estimated 15,000 individuals at the inception of the previous National Strategy in 2012, the figure has now reached an estimate of around 2,000 people, nearly all residing in settlements. Despite this undeniable progress, UNAR, in its new strategic document, has once again highlighted this issue, urging local



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authorities, in particular, to plan actions and interventions while "taking into account" the possibility that some intended beneficiaries may have documentary deficiencies that could exclude them from the intervention itself (resulting in the exclusion of the most vulnerable individuals).

6) Reviewing the mandate of the National Office Against Racism (UNAR) in order to strengthen its powers and independence;

Regarding the theme of independence and the powers of UNAR, the following is represented.

- Regarding the expansion of UNAR's mandate to counteract any form of discrimination, it is reiterated that the Office de facto performs (in accordance with the general guidelines for administrative action and for the management of the Department for Equal Opportunities) since 2011, the functions of guarantee and oversight against discrimination based on race or ethnic origin, religion or personal beliefs, age, disability, sexual orientation, and gender identity.
- UNAR's mandate was further extended in 2022 concerning the "nationality" factor, in order to fully implement EU Directive 54/2014. According to the new legislation, the Office has been identified as the Italian Equality Body responsible for addressing discrimination against EU citizens in the workplace for the purpose of their free movement.
- In reference to the theme of independence, to strengthen UNAR's autonomy, the Secretary General of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers issued a Circular on October 1, 2018, reiterating regulatory safeguards for independence:

The tasks of UNAR are strictly defined by a primary source, and therefore, not modifiable by any secondary rules or directives resulting from changes in political direction.

UNAR's activities are funded with an annual allocation set by law continuously over time and derived from the Rotational Fund for the implementation of community policies, thus not tied to the coverage of the annual state budget.

The Circular specifies the responsibility profiles of the Coordinator of UNAR, considered both as a public official and as the head of an organization with peculiar characteristics of independence. To strengthen autonomy and independence, the management of financial resources is entirely delegated to the Coordinator of UNAR.

- The independence profiles of UNAR are confirmed by the European Commission's closure on March 7, 2019, of the EU PILOT procedure 8034/15/JUST regarding the correct application of Directive 2000/43/EC.



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7) Promptly and publicly condemn cases of hate crimes, as well as incitement to hatred against minorities, migrants or refugees in political discourse, media and social media;

UNAR, aware that inappropriate language, fueled by prejudice and stereotypes, can convey a discriminatory message, has been at the forefront for several years in the fight against online hate speech. To this end, through its Contact Center, it consistently receives reports of discriminatory content, including those related to the web and searches conducted using the office's computer tools.

The reporting and countering of any form of online discrimination activity, along with the international commitments that UNAR is obligated to within the framework of countering hate speech, have required an additional effort to promote dialogue and coordination with other involved institutional entities, particularly the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of the Interior (Oscad and Cybercrime Police), the Ministry of Education, and AGCOM. Coordination meetings between UNAR and relevant institutional entities have been ongoing regularly and intensified within the scope of three European projects: the "C.O.N.T.R. O" project initiated in 2019 and concluded in December 2020, the "REA.SON" project that commenced in 2021 and concluded in December 2022, and the F.A.D.E project, initiated in January 2022 and scheduled to conclude in June 2024. The shared objective of these projects is to bring diverse experiences together, creating a system capable of addressing the monitoring, knowledge, and prevention needs related to crimes of this nature.

8) Adopt legislative and more targeted measures, including awareness-raising campaigns, to prevent, counteract and effectively sanction the persistence of anti-Gypsyism, in society, with particular attention to social media; also carefully monitor the terminology used to refer to Roma and Sinti or their place of residence and ensure that derogatory, stigmatising and inappropriate language is no longer used in practice;

UNAR as NRCP cooperates with the Ministry of Labour and Welfare (Management Authority of the PN Inclusion and fight to poverty also in the 2021-2027). The Office is involved in the technical secretariat and monitoring committees of ESF National Programmes (NP Inclusion and NP Metro+). In December 2023 the agreement between Ministry of Labour and UNAR as an intermediate body was signed. Two member of Roma and Sinti National Platform since 2018 are formally involved in the monitoring committee.



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Recent developments:

- First National Week for the promotion of romanì culture: during the week, which will take place from April 3 to April 10, 2024, in proximity to International Roma Day (April 8), projects and events will be promoted to reduce biases and foster awareness of the history and artistic contributions of the Roma people to the national and European heritage.
- Please visit: <https://www.unar.it/portale//avviso-pubblico-della-i-edizione-della-settimana-per-la-promozione-della-cultura-roman%C3%AC-e-per-il-contrasto-all-antiziganismo-3-10-aprile-2024->
- Redesign the process for Inter-institutional coordination in line with the National Strategy 2021-2030;
- Promote capacity building of local level for housing transition from settlements to normal houses;
- Promoting actions that ensure the direct participation of community experts with romanì backgrounds
- the promotion of activities of transnational cooperation, like the study visit we did in Madrid, in July 2023, with 20 representatives of local authorities
- The involvement of institutional stakeholders (included the managing authorities) in initiatives Unar on combating antigypsyism (improving network e knowledge of ONG and roma local activist involved in housing issues)

11) Continue to raise awareness among education professionals about the cultures and traditions of linguistic minorities, the Roma and Sinti and religious groups respectively, as well as their historical presence and contribution to Italian society, using all relevant means and in close consultation with all stakeholders;

UNAR has promoted a series of nationwide initiatives aimed at understanding the culture and fostering the memory of persecutions against Roma and Sinti communities. In recent years, activities within the project "Combating Antigypsyism, a Cultural Journey between Memory and Contemporary Issues" have been developed to promote knowledge of historical and cultural aspects of these communities and facilitate the reduction of antigypsyism through research, training, and awareness-raising actions. Aligned with these efforts to increase knowledge and awareness is the implementation of training programs directed at Public Administrations (PAs):



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training courses have been designed and implemented (including e-learning formats), primarily targeting public officials operating at the local level. These courses aim to deconstruct stereotypes and prejudices, delve into topics such as language and antidiscrimination law, and provide knowledge in project management and co-design mechanisms. Research activities and action research have been initiated and carried out in collaboration with some Italian universities (Verona and Florence) on the subjects of persecutions and the schooling of Roma and Sinti in Italy.

14. intensify efforts to promote sustainable employment opportunities and employability of persons belonging to Roma and Sinti communities, with particular attention to women and young people, including in the public sector; support social cooperatives and revise Law no. 337/1968 on equestrian circuses and itinerant entertainment so as to take into account the specific needs and cultural and economic interests of persons belonging to these communities; further invest in improving the living conditions of persons belonging to Roma and Sinti communities living in "authorised" and "unauthorised" settlements and ensure that sustainable alternative solutions to forced evictions are proposed, in consultation with those concerned.

UNAR, as the beneficiary for the implementation of interventions under the PON Inclusion 2014-2020, has carried out the project "ACCEDER-E" with the aim of facilitating access to the labor market, both self-employed and employed, for individuals at risk of discrimination, particularly focusing on Roma and Sinti populations. The project's implementation was entrusted to Invitalia, the National Agency for the Development owned by the Ministry of Economy and Finance. The project was developed over the biennium 2022 on a national scale, and the implementation actions covered thirteen out of twenty regions, with two lines of intervention: the implementation of personalized training programs aimed at promoting the socio-professional integration of disadvantaged individuals, and the implementation of professional internships with the provision of bonuses for hiring.

Within Line A, from January to April 2023, 27 training courses were held for 218 participants. As part of Line B, from May to August 2023, 72 of the course participants were selected for on-the-job internships with companies, cooperatives, and associations. Companies had the opportunity to apply for hiring bonuses for the recipients of the interventions.



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OBSERVATORY FOR SECURITY AGAINST ACTS OF DISCRIMINATION - OSCAD

The activities of the *Observatory for Security against acts of discrimination* (OSCAD) are particularly important.

The Observatory for Security against Acts of Discrimination (OSCAD) is an inter-agency body established, by decree of the Chief of Police, in September 2010 to respond operationally to the demand for security of people belonging to "vulnerable categories", by systematizing and giving further impetus to the activities carried out by the Italian National Police and the Carabinieri in the field of prevention and fight against hate crimes (that is crimes motivated by the offender's prejudice against one or more protected characteristics of the victim: race, ethnicity, religious belief, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability and so on).

The OSCAD, set up within the Public Security Department – Criminal Police Central Directorate - is presided over by the Deputy Director General of Public Security with deputy functions- and is made up of representatives of the National Police, the Carabinieri and the departmental units competent in this field.

The OSCAD's main objectives, which are closely interconnected, are the following:

- to facilitate the filing of complaints on hate crimes in order to effectively combat the phenomenon of under-reporting (i.e. the fact that very few complaints are filed), thus increasing its visibility;
- to carry out a fruitful monitoring, also through an in-depth analysis of open sources;
- to raise awareness, train and constantly update law enforcement officers' skills to combat the phenomenon of under-recording (lack of recognition of the discriminatory nature of the crime).



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Based on the aforementioned remit of OSCAD, it is expected to provide input on the observations in the “further recommendations section”, specifically:

8. Adopt legislative and more targeted measures, including awareness-raising campaigns, to prevent, counteract and effectively sanction the persistence of anti-Gypsyism, in society, with particular attention to social media; also carefully monitor the terminology used to refer to Roma and Sinti or their place of residence and ensure that derogatory, stigmatising and inappropriate language is no longer used in practice;

Although the adoption of legislative measures does not fall within the remit of the Observatory, there are numerous actions and campaigns that OSCAD has been promoting for years to raise awareness about respecting human rights and combating all forms of discrimination, including those against national minorities.

In addition, it should be noted that, Oscad, since its establishment, has implemented a number of actions to make it simple to get in touch with the Observatory and consequently facilitate reporting, thus combatting the phenomenon of under-reporting, primarily by activating an e-mail address (oscad@dcpc.interno.it) aimed at receiving reports from institutions, associations or private citizens (including anonymously).

The reports received, as well as those obtained from the analysis of open sources, are analyzed and forwarded to the relevant offices of the National Police or the Carabinieri, requesting further information on the matter and/or targeted interventions; on their own initiative, the Police Forces forward reports on the cases processed to OSCAD.



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This information flow feeds a special monitoring system managed by the Observatory, which, over time, has become an essential reference point - nationally and internationally - in the field of hate crime monitoring and analysis.

Awareness-raising Initiatives.

Many initiatives have been carried out aimed at disseminating awareness of OSCAD, starting with the creation of dedicated pages on the websites of the National Police and Carabinieri Corps, as well as on the website of the Ministry of the Interior, where, in addition to information on the organization and activities of OSCAD, data on the reports handled by the Observatory have been made available, those communicated to the OSCE (through the link <http://hatecrime.osce.org/italy>), which annually provides the most comprehensive collection of data on hate crimes at the international level.

With regard to awareness-raising events, which are considered true best practices for combating all forms of discrimination, the following should be noted:

On 21 January 2020 a conference on “**The victims of hatred**” was held in Rome, which was attended, among other participants, by Italy’s Interior Minister, Minister for Equal Opportunities and Chief of Police-Director General for Public Security. This conference was an occasion for reflection on promoting the culture of inclusion and combating all forms of racism and consisted in a number of panels focusing on a specific ground of discrimination: race-ethnicity, religious faith, sexual orientation, disability.

Each panel included contributions from experts also at international level as well as excerpts of videos and accounts of victims’ own experiences.



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This format has been replicated in other Italian cities including: Turin, Palermo, San Marino, Milan, Florence, Trieste, Taranto and Matera.

The 9th of June 2022, and 16 May 2023 events dedicated to the issue of anti-Semitism were held in Milan at the Shoah Memorial Auditorium.

In May 2022 and June 2023 together with the Communication Police, carried out an awareness campaign in Albania, meeting with numerous students in Tirana, Shkodra, Vlora, and Durres to raise awareness of anti-discrimination issues.

On July 26, 2023, a conference was held at the Aula Magna of the University of Verona Law School, sponsored by the University of Verona and the Director of the Department of Legal Sciences, which included the involvement of OSCAD and a "lectio magistralis" by the Observatory's President on the issues of combating hate crimes and hate speech and protecting human rights.

OSCAD and Postal and Communications Police "Una vita da social".

Since September 2023, OSCAD has been participating in additional initiatives, again as part of the "Una vita da social" campaign, implemented by the Postal and Communications Police, and also involving the Traffic Police. The project, which is itinerant in nature, aims to spread the culture of legality and safety, both online and in real life, without forgetting road safety. The symbol of the initiative is the "truck" which, with its equipped multimedia classroom, will reach different locations in Italy to welcome schoolchildren and citizens. OSCAD staff will be



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on board the truck to present the Observatory's activities, the dissemination material produced over the years, and answer questions from the public.

Currently about 10,000 students, accompanied by their teachers, have taken part in the initiative.

EUROVISION Song Contest.

In the continuation of what had already been achieved with the aforementioned format, OSCAD, together with the Postal Police (which is part of the same Observatory), carried out an articulate communication campaign at the Eurovision Song Contest, the world's most popular music media event, which took place in Turin from 10 to 14 May. Through an agreement with RAI social, several clips were made with the competing artists (subtitled in English and Italian), raising awareness about the various forms of hatred, including online, and discrimination (relating to race, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability) that were subsequently published on the social channels of RAI and the Public Security Department. Furthermore, OSCAD and the Postal Police participated in the Village activities at the Valentino Park, with a dedicated stand and the 'Una vita da social' truck, meeting thousands of visitors and students every day.

Publications and Reports.

- A publication entitled "When hate becomes crime – Hate crime: what it is and the legal framework against it" was also published in the Polizia di Stato official magazine "Polizia Moderna" issue of January 2020 and presented at the conference on hate crime victims. The insert is a reader-friendly information tool to gain a better understanding of hate crimes and hate speech, their characteristics, bias indicators, vulnerable victims and the relevant legislation



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both at national and international level. The supplement was published in both Italian, English and German on the institutional websites of Italy's Interior Ministry¹, Polizia di Stato and Carabinieri and disseminated among the Italian police forces.

An insert entitled "Hatred of disabled people" (Polizia Moderna issue of October 2020) – published in Italian and English on institutional websites² and disseminated among the Italian and international police forces and stakeholders – as an opportunity for reflection and enrichment on a particularly sensitive topic with a view to providing law enforcement officers with practical tools to detect and combat crimes against the disabled most effectively.

On International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, OSCAD collaborated to produce the report 'Prejudice and Violence against Women' by carrying out an interesting focus on the topic of multiple discrimination (so-called intersectionality) which, as is well known, occurs when a woman is a victim, not only as such, but also because she is disabled or belongs to a minority group. The report was presented on 22 November 2022 in the "Sala della Protomoteca" at the Campidoglio, in the presence of the Minister of the Interior and the Chief of Police.

Given the centrality of the topic in question, the aforementioned focus was enriched to produce a brochure entitled "Violence against women with disabilities" in which, in addition to presenting the data collected by the Observatory in the two-year period from 1 October 2020 to 30 September 2022, the main indicators of violence as well as the most widespread prejudices

¹ <https://www.interno.gov.it/it/stampa-e-comunicazione/pubblicazioni/quando-lodio-diventa-reato>

² <https://www.interno.gov.it/it/stampa-e-comunicazione/pubblicazioni/lodio-contro-persone-disabili>



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against women with disabilities were illustrated. The report was presented on 3 December 2022 on the occasion of the 'International Day of Persons with Disabilities'.

Also for 2023, OSCAD conducted a focus as part of the report "Prejudice and Violence Against Women" in which, data from October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023 were presented that confirmed a significant increase due to the improvement of data quality by virtue of SDI innovation.

OSCAD'S activities in countering discrimination in sports.

As with any other form of manifestation of hatred and discrimination, for incidents with a discriminatory matrix that take place during sports competitions, OSCAD records reports that arrive, through the dedicated email oscad@dcpc.interno.it, from individuals, associations, entities, police forces, as well as those obtained from a careful examination of open sources.

In particular, the reports attended to by the Observatory are related to incidents of ethnic/racial, national, religious, homotransfobic discrimination and against people with disabilities, which occur at sporting events.

In the line of prevention activities, since 2022 an inter-institutional collaboration has been implemented with the National Observatory on Sporting Events of the Department of Public Security, which includes, among its operational objectives, the implementation of strategies to combat the phenomena of racial discrimination at sporting events through a special monitoring, evaluation and analysis activity.

For this purpose, precise forms of collaboration have been agreed on with regard to the exchange of information, and a special reporting form has been drafted that allows both Observatories to have clear elements of evaluation, each for its own action of competence.

Specifically, discriminatory incidents (chants, banners, gestures, verses, verbal insults, physical aggression, threats, etc.) detected during sporting events by the police forces are reported to the



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two Observatories by the territorially competent Police Headquarters, through the filling in of a form that allows to highlight the discriminatory matrix of the event (racism, anti-Semitism, territorial discrimination, etc.) and provide some essential elements to fully analyze the incident, including the type of behavior, the perpetrator, the victim and a brief description of the event.

With reference to awareness-raising activities at the European level, since February 2023 the Observatory has joined, in collaboration with the Department for Sport of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, the "Combating Hate Speech in Sport" project funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe, under which guidelines have already been defined and a preparatory document on a common campaign against hate speech in sport to be implemented in six European countries: Italy, France, Germany, Spain, Greece and Montenegro.

It should be noted that the most affected athletes, among those of foreign origin, are black footballers, a physical characteristic immediately noticeable to haters, but also coaches or footballers who recall a Bosnian Serb origin.

In the case of black soccer players, the victims are insulted with epithets, phrases, and choruses, which recall the typical stereotypes of racial discrimination against Afro-descendant people ("banana-eater," "go back home with the barge," "go back to the cage," "monkey," "go back to the camels," "shit nigger go back to Africa," "go back to the jungle monkey," etc.) usually juxtaposed with irregular immigration and monkeys, a circumstance that is strongly reminiscent of one of the typical features of discriminatory conduct, namely the dehumanization of the victim, described no longer as a person but as an animal not deserving of respect. This consideration is also supported by the racist "verses" or "howls" and "buuhs" that many times are directed at black football players.

Regarding insults or choruses against coaches or footballers considered to be of Bosnian Serb origin, the epithet most often uttered is "ZINGARO," but also "NOMADE." Some soccer players are insulted because of their pasts at other teams.



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OSCAD training activities.

Further fundamental activity is the training of Police Force personnel: only through the careful planning of training activities can the awareness and competence of law enforcement personnel be increased extensively and effectively, which is indispensable to improve their capacity to respond to the hate crime phenomenon, starting from the identification of the discriminatory element in a criminal offence (addressing under-recording), and – more importantly – to convey a clear message that the culture of respect for human rights and an increasingly effective action to prevent and counter crimes motivated by discrimination are strategic priorities for law enforcement authorities.

To ensure an updated, multidisciplinary training offer, relations have been established and increasingly intensified with a range of institutional and civil society stakeholders, with whom a number of joint training initiatives have been carried out: the National Anti-Racial Discrimination Office (Ufficio Nazionale Antidiscriminazioni Razziali or UNAR) of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Italy's equality body with which OSCAD concluded an MoU in 2011); the LGBT service of the municipality of Turin, the leader of "Rete Ready"³; "Amnesty International – Italia"; "Polis Aperta"⁴; "Rete Lenford"⁵; "Cospe"⁶; "Lunaria"⁷.

As of 15 January 2024,

³ A national network of public administrations against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

⁴ National association of LGBTI members of police and armed forces.

⁵ Avvocatura per i diritti LGBT – Rete Lenford (Legal profession for LGBTI rights) is an association of lawyers and experts in the field of LGBTI rights.

⁶ "Cooperation for the development of emerging countries", a very active association in the field of anti-racism.

⁷ An association engaging in social promotion and anti-racism.



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- **11.821** officers were trained via in-person workshops directly organised by the OSCAD Secretariat;
- **19.382** officers were trained in person by trainers trained by the OSCAD Secretariat (Train-the-Trainer & Cascade training models);
- **28.554** officers were trained through online training modules delivered by OSCAD;

thus bringing the total number of trained officers to **59.757**

The basic pre-service training package has been progressively optimised. After the first experimental activities conducted in cooperation with UNAR in 2012/2013, starting from 2014 other civil societies organisations have been regularly involved, e.g. Amnesty International Italia for the human rights focus and Rete Lenford for the focus on “LGBTI persons and law enforcement activities”.

To ensure increasingly widespread delivery of training, both in person and online,

- train-the-trainer workshops were organised for in-service senior at the National Police training institutes (2018- 2023);
- online training modules have been developed and constantly updated on the Daitnet (National Police) and SISFOR (inter-force) platforms starting from 2015.

Training collaboration with universities.

With Universities



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In 2022, the Observatory, in collaboration with the UNAR and the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan, organized a training conference entitled "online hatred: characteristics and response tools" held at in blended mode (in presence and online). The training activity, provided on the basis of the National Strategy to combat anti-Semitism, is part of the European project "Reason - react in the Struggle against online hate speech" (<https://reasonproject.eu/>), within also OSCAD took part in. In this context, more than 400 police officers (National Police and the Carabinieri) were trained (100 in presence and 300 online). The course, implemented in 2022 and made available for free to everyone on the eduopen.org platform until March 31, 2023 ("Massive Open online course" MOOC) was designed as an asynchronous training tool capable of combining the theoretical dimension of countering hate speech with the practical dimension for anyone wishing to learn more about online and "onlife" hate speech. The activity was divided into five modules that addressed the theoretical context of reference with the aim of providing a definition of "hate" and "hate speech," the characteristics of the digital environment that facilitate propagation, some forms of hate, in particular anti-Semitism, anti-Gypsyism, and Islamophobia (module three), and the tools for countering online hate, according to the legal approach and educational perspective (module four). Oscad collaborated on the fifth module divided into several options aimed at different targets: judiciary and law enforcement; journalists and communication professionals; teachers and public administration and citizens; activists, associations and NGOs.

In April 2023, the Director of OSCAD gave a lecture on hate crimes and the Observatory's activities at the UNINT University of International Studies in Rome, while, in March, a similar lecture was given at La Sapienza University, as part of the Criminology Course of the Faculty of Psychology. On July 26, a conference sponsored by the University of Verona and the Director of



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the Department of Legal Sciences was held in the Aula Magna of the University of Verona, which included the involvement of OSCAD and a "lectio magistralis" by the Observatory's President on the issues of combating hate crimes and hate speech and the protection of human rights. The event was attended by university students, a large representation of Student Officers attending the Peschiera del Garda School as well as personnel from the National Police, Carabinieri and Guardia di Finanza.

Training collaborations with lawyers' association and other professional entities

In 2022, OSCAD participated in the Stand Up for Victims rights project "Understanding and Recognizing Hate Crimes" aimed at developing awareness among lawyers, law enforcement and other professionals who might come into contact with victims (as teachers, social workers, activists, etc.), and increasing the possibility for victims to report. The project is funded by the European Union. The leading partner is COSPE with the collaboration, among the others, of Amnesty International Italy. OSCAD, involved because of its expertise in the field of training, took part in some training seminars for lawyers, entitled "UNDERSTANDING AND RECOGNIZING HATE CRIMES". They have been provided in blended mode (on line and in presence) in the cities of Florence, Bari, Genoa and Cagliari with the collaboration of the National Forensic Council.

On Jan. 26, 2022, OSCAD conducted a training activity as part of the " Anti-Discrimination Law Course on Racial Origin, Ethnic Origin, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity" organized by the National Forensic Council in collaboration with several partners including Unar and Lenford Network. The course was held over 10 days, the ninth of which was devoted to "The Police Force's Approach to Discrimination," under which OSCAD was provided.



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Within the framework of the European project "INGRID - INTERsecting GROunds of Discrimination in Italy," the Alexander Langer Stiftung Foundation asked the OSCAD Secretariat to take part in the "Training Course with Police Force Personnel Operating in the Territory of the Autonomous Province of Bolzano" aimed at strengthening the learning and relational skills of police officers in order to strengthen the prevention and combating of discriminatory crimes. OSCAD presented two training modules: on Feb. 3, 2022 (The role of OSCAD and the characteristics of Hate Crimes) and on Feb. 18 (The innovations introduced by the transposition of the Victims Directive and the correct approach with vulnerable victims; Ethnic-racial profiling in Police activities).

OSCAD participated in the European project SUPER, an acronym for SUPporting Everyday fight against Racism, which started in 2021 and ended in 2023. The project, which saw the City of Turin as the lead partner in partnership with the City of Bologna, the City of Reggio Emilia, the Turin-based Altera APS Association and the Mondinsieme Intercultural Center of Reggio Emilia, aimed to carry out training activities for law enforcement, civil servants and community leaders and the construction of strategies and action plans to be adopted at the local and national levels. The OSCAD Secretariat was responsible for the training and specifically for identifying, from among the territorial OSCADs, the participants in the various Training of Trainers, which were held during the course of the project in the three cities involved. A podcast dedicated to the prevention work carried out by the Police Force was also produced as part of the project;

Specific training activities

In October 2021, the OSCAD Secretariat carried out a training of trainers in cooperation with OSCE-ODIHR entitled "**Police and Roma - Effective and Human Rights-Compliant Policing**"



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aimed at raising the awareness of police officers on the correct approach to Roma, Sinti and Travellers, as well as increasing the trust of people belonging to these communities in the Police Force, in order to increasingly combat the phenomenon of under-reporting.

From Nov. 29 to Dec. 2, 2022 OSCAD Director participated in **train-the-trainer training organized by the Council of Europe focused on providing law enforcement practitioners with useful guidance to improve their knowledge of Roma, Sinti, and Camminanti Communities** to ensure an operational response and approach that respects human rights and key European standards.

In addition, the Observatory since 2014, has included, in the OSCAD training module, a specific in-depth study on racial profiling in policing in which a path of reflection is proposed starting from the very definition of profiling and analyzing the consequences of profiling attitudes on target communities and on policing itself.

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

In implementation of the indications expressed by the Council of Europe in the Resolution referred to on several occasions, and in particular following up on the Recommendations addressed to Italy with reference to the areas of specific competence of the **Ministry of Justice**, the following should be noted.

More specifically, with regard to the request to report on the measures taken for the development of a specific legislative framework for the protection of Roma, Sinti and Caminanti, in consultation with the representatives of these communities as well as the adoption of targeted legislative measures, including awareness raising campaigns, to prevent, counteract and effectively punish continuing anti-Gypsyism, please note that the Italian legal system envisage



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general protection rules against discrimination and persecution based on minority membership, fully applicable to the Roma, Sinti and Caminanti communities and minorities.

In the period following the conclusion of the Council of Europe Advisory Committee's Fifth Monitoring Cycle, the domestic regulatory framework was developed as follows:

- Legislative Decree No. 208/2021 (Implementation of Directive (EU) 2018/1808 of the European Parliament and of the Council of November 14, 2018, amending Directive 2010/13/EU on the coordination of certain a number of provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in Member States concerning the single text for the provision of audiovisual media services given the evolution of the market): in Article 7, paragraph 2, indent. (b), the Communications Guarantee Authority is permitted to interrupt temporarily the reception or broadcasting of audiovisual media services supplied by a provider under the jurisdiction of another member state in the event of a manifest, serious violation of the prohibition of broadcasting programs containing incitement to violence or hatred against a group of persons or a member of a group, on the grounds of race, sex, religion or nationality; in para. 12, indent (a) similar power is granted in the case of requests from other member states of the European Union, if the Authority deems this necessary for the protection of public order, in particular the prevention, investigation, detection and prosecution of crimes, also in function of the protection of minors and the fight against incitement to hatred based on grounds of race, sex, religion or nationality, as well as violations of the human dignity of individuals; Art. 41(7)(b), envisages that the Authority may limit the free circulation of programs, user-generated videos and audiovisual commercial communications conveyed by a video-sharing platform whose provider is established in another member state and directed to the Italian public in order to counter incitement to racial, sexual, religious or ethnic hatred, as well as violations of human dignity;



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- Law No. 169/2021 (Ratification and Execution of the Council of Europe Convention on Cinematographic Co-Production (Revised), with Annexes, done in Rotterdam on January 30, 2017): in Article 5(3), projects of cinematographic works that incite discrimination, hatred or violence are excluded from co-production;

- Law No. 90/2022 (Ratification and Execution of the Treaty between the Republic of Italy and the Republic of France for Enhanced Bilateral Cooperation, done in Rome on November 26, 2021): in Article 4, Paragraph 9, the Parties undertake to counter hate incitement with common initiatives.

Furthermore, in the current Legislature, bills 102 and 259 with corresponding content, were submitted to the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, dealing with countering incitement to hatred and online violence. Both texts aim at introducing general measures to prevent and combat the spreading of hate speech through the Internet, in particular by providing for amendments to Articles 604-bis and 604-ter of the Criminal Code, which punish all forms of discrimination and violence on racial, ethnic and religious grounds, adding grounds related to sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and disability.

An additional intention is easing the removal of illicit content from the Internet, by referring to the provisions of Articles 604-bis, 604-ter, 612-bis and 612-ter, as well as the Mancino Law and Legislative Decree no. 215/2003, which enable users to report to operators on the presence of manifestly illicit content in the Internet, with the obligation for the latter to prepare procedures to ensure immediate analysis by a self-regulatory body made up by a number of expert analysts, with the possibility of providing for review and appeal procedures to the Data Protection Authority.

In case of manifest unlawfulness, the operator must report the content to the Postal Police within 12 hours and remove or block it within 48 hours. Managers are obliged to prepare a six



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months report on the outcome of the reports, with possible sanctions imposed by the Data Protection Authority in case of violation. Penalties vary depending on the degree of seriousness of the violation and take into account various factors, such as the nature of the violations, the profit made by website operators, and cooperation with the relevant authorities.

It also provides for new rules on the right to black out, remove or block the dissemination of one's own personal data or images on the network, even beyond the case of unlawful processing of data, with the obligation for the operator to do so within 48 hours and intervention by the data protection Authority in the event of lack of action or disputes. The concept of 'unlawful content' within the meaning of Articles 604-bis and 604-ter of the Criminal Code, as well as other related legislation, is also defined. Finally, specific provisions are introduced on digital education, to be carried out in schools at all levels.

As far as promotional and soft-law measures are concerned, since 2020 the Ministry of Justice has been participating in the REASON project - 'REAct in the Struggle against Online hate speech', promoted by UNAR and aimed at combating online hate crimes and hate speech; in this connection the Ministry of Justice assisted in the definition of the guidelines, which pay particular attention to the role of agencies and public administrations, equality bodies and political parties, as well as to the promotion of campaigns on this subject on the part of the Ministry of Education and Merit, with the involvement of media companies active on the Internet, including through the enhancement of self-regulation and conduct codes, and, more generally, of the media and other information sector operators and civil society. Mechanisms and strategies are also envisaged to support victims of hate speech, including through listening and awareness raising; this approach is intended also for those who have been found to be the perpetrators of conducts of this kind which can even turn into criminal offences, for which the



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process can result in reparatory conduct to extinguish the crime. Finally, the project emphasises the need to initiate hate speech monitoring and analysis activities.

With reference to the recommendation on the improvement of support mechanisms for minority languages and cultures, the Minister of Justice co-submitted Decree-Law No. 123/2023, amended by Law No. 159/2023 (Urgent measures to combat youth discomfort, educational poverty and juvenile crime, as well as for the safety of minors in the digital sphere) which, in Article 10-bis, paragraph 1, allows the heads of the regional school offices to derogate from the minimum number of pupils per class provided for by the Presidential Decree no. 81/2009 also in geographical areas inhabited by linguistic minorities.

For the sake of completeness, the following measures deserve attention as they were also adopted during the period under review:

- Law No. 160/2019 (State Budget for the financial year 2020 and multi-year budget for the three-year period 2020-2022), whose Article 549, provided for the increase of the endowment of the National Fund for the protection of linguistic minorities pursuant to Article 9, paragraph 2, of Law No. 482/1999 by €250,000 for the year 2020, by €500,000 for the year 2021 and by €1,000,000 for the year 2022, also increasing by a similar amount the overall annual maximum limit pursuant to Article 15, paragraph 1.,

- Legislative Decree No. 36/2021 (Implementation of Article 5 of Law No. 86 of 8 August 2019, on the reorganisation and reform of the provisions on professional and amateur sports bodies, as well as on sports work) in Art. 2, paragraph 1, indent. s), which recognised the function of protection of linguistic minorities by certain Sports Promotion Bodies, i.e. sports bodies operating in the field of the promotion and organisation of motor and sports activities with recreational and training purposes; a similar acknowledgment is contained in Art. 2, para. 1,



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indent. f) of Legislative Decree No. 37/2021 (Implementation of Article 6 of Law No. 86 of 8 August 2019, on measures concerning the representative role of athletes and sports clubs and the access to and exercise of the profession of sports agent) and Article 2(1)(g) of Legislative Decree No. 39/2021 (Implementation of Article 8 of Law No. 86 of 8 August 2019 on the simplification of obligations relating to sports bodies);

- the above mentioned Legislative Decree No. 39/2021, which, in Article 11(3), introduces a special section of the national register of amateur sporting activities committed to the protection of linguistic minorities in compliance with Articles 99 and 100 of Presidential Decree No. 670/1972, to which amateur sporting societies and associations having their registered office in the Province of Bolzano may have access; an agreement between the latter and the Department of Sport defines the procedures for access to and joint management of the section of the register by the Province's staff;

- Decree no. 47 of 29 January 2021 of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and of Tourism, art. 2, par. 1, indent. a), which envisages that the notion of "audiovisual work containing forms of Italian original expression" includes European works where the direct sound recording is entirely or at least 50% of the total minute length in Italian or in dialects of Italy; if the work is even partly set in regions where linguistic minorities live, pursuant to art. 2 of Law no. 482/1999 or if there are characters coming from such areas, the use of the languages in question is equivalent to that of the Italian language, provided that this is strictly functional to the narrative needs of the work;

- Law no. 116/2021 (Provisions on the use of semi-automatic and automatic defibrillators) which, in Article 9, paragraph 1, states that in territories where there are recognised linguistic minorities, the provisions in question (instructions, information, awareness raising campaigns, mobile application) are applied in compliance with the relevant minority language;



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- Decree no. 47 of 29 January 2021 of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and of Tourism, art. 2, par. 1, indent. a), which establishes that the notion of "audiovisual work of Italian original expression" includes European works where the direct sound recording is entirely or at least 50% of the total minute length in Italian or in Italian dialects; if the work is set, even partially, in regions where linguistic minorities live, pursuant to art. 2 of Law no. 482/1999 or if there are characters coming from such areas, the use of the languages in question is equivalent to that of the Italian language, provided that this is strictly functional to the narrative needs of the work;
- Law no. 116/2021 (Provisions on the use of semi-automatic and automatic defibrillators) which, in Article 9, paragraph 1, states that in territories where there are recognised linguistic minorities, the provisions in question (instructions, information, awareness campaigns, mobile application) are applied in compliance with the relevant minority language;
- Decree-Law No. 139/2021 (Urgent provisions for access to cultural, sporting and recreational activities, as well as for the organisation of public administrations and the protection of personal data), which, in Art. 8, paragraph 1, provides for the free use for the activities of Slovene-speaking cultural and scientific institutions of the "Narodni Dom" Cultural House in Trieste, whose ownership is transferred to the "Foundation - Fundacija Narodni Dom", established by the Slovene Economic Cultural Union - Slovenska Kulturno- Gospodarska Zveza and the Confederation of Slovene Organisations - Svet Slovenskih Organizacij. Paragraph 4 also envisages an agreement between the Foundation and the University of Trieste in order to define the modalities for the transfer of the School of Studies in Modern Languages for Interpreters and Translators to the latter in order to ensure the gradual access to the building to the Foundation. Furthermore, it is envisaged that both Slovene and Italian-speaking cultural and scientific institutions will be located in the "Trgovski Dom" in the same city;



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- Legislative Decree No. 208/2021 (Implementation of Directive (EU) 2018/1808 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 November 2018 amending Directive 2010/13/EU on the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in Member States concerning the single text for the provision of audiovisual media services in view of changing market realities), which in Art. 4, paragraph 6, provides that local media services shall enhance and promote regional or local cultures, protecting linguistic minorities by devoting a share of broadcasting capacity at local level for audiovisual media services representing these minorities; art. 5, paragraph 1, indent h) introduces, as a general principle of the audiovisual media and radio system, the provision of specific forms of protection of media services in favour of linguistic minorities recognised by law; Article 50, paragraph 9, provides that the Communications Guarantee Authority shall draw up the frequency allocation plans for the terrestrial broadcasting service, taking into account, where they exist, the specific provisions adopted by the Special Statute Regions and Autonomous Provinces to protect linguistic minorities;
- Law No. 30/2022 (Rules for the enhancement of small agri-food productions of local origin), which in Article 11, paragraph 5, allows special statute regions and the autonomous provinces of Trento and Bolzano in whose territory there are recognised linguistic minorities to establish the PPL (Small Local Productions) labelling and logo in bilingual form
- law no. 61/2022 (Rules for the enhancement and promotion of zero kilometre and short chain agricultural and food products) whose art. 8, paragraph 3, which allows the special statute regions and autonomous provinces of Trento and Bolzano with recognised linguistic minorities to establish the 'zero kilometre' and 'short chain' logos in bilingual form;
- Decree-Law no. 51/2023 (Urgent provisions on the administration of public entities, legislative deadlines and social solidarity initiatives) whose Article 10, paragraph 1-bis, extended the



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application of the provisions pursuant to Article 34-ter of Decree-Law no. 41/2021, amended by Law no. 69/2021, on the subject of measures for the recognition of the Italian sign language and the inclusion of persons with hearing disabilities, to sign languages and tactile sign languages of recognised linguistic minorities in the relevant territories;

Six draft laws on the protection of linguistic minorities were also submitted in the current legislature:

- bill 117 submitted by the Chamber of Deputies and bill 286 submitted by the Senate aim to update Law No. 482/1999 on the protection of historical linguistic minorities, also allowing the Veneto Region to adopt its own specific rules on language teaching, including Veneto among the minority languages under Article 2. Moreover, it provides for the compulsory teaching of minority languages in the respective regional territory as well as the protection of the same minority languages and cultures also outside the Italian national borders. The Regions are called upon to adapt their legislation with specific provisions for the protection of the language also through the signing of special agreements with the company charged with the public broadcasting service and with local broadcasters for news programmes and general programmes in the minority language of interest;

- bill 371 submitted by the Senate lays down provisions to protect linguistic minorities at risk of disappearance, with less than 10,000 members in the national territory and residing in municipalities with a maximum population of 5,000 inhabitants, of which they represent at least 15 per cent of the total population. When these conditions exist, permits and simplifications are introduced in favour of both new and existing enterprises, as well as birth incentives, deductions of loans for the renovation of houses and bonuses for the purchase of material useful for the study of the minority language or for cultural activities and season tickets for public transport;



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- bill 678 submitted by the Chamber of Deputies and bill 240 submitted by the Senate aim to abolish the minimum number of pupils for the composition of classes in primary and secondary schools in mountain municipalities, small islands and geographical areas inhabited by linguistic minorities;
- bill 6 submitted by the Chamber of Deputies is aimed at ensuring the representation of linguistic minorities in the composition of the Constitutional Court.

The information listed below was collected through the latest monitoring carried out by the Ministry of the Interior - Central Directorate of Civil Rights, Citizenship and Minorities, in October 2023, with specific reference to historical minorities (Encl. 1) and to RSC communities, with a focus on housing (Encl. 2).



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CHAPTER II

THE OUTCOME OF TERRITORIAL MONITORING ON HISTORICAL LINGUISTIC MINORITIES

In order to draw up the present VI Report, the Central Directorate of Civil Rights, Citizenship and Minorities (hereinafter the Central Directorate) has carried out an extensive information gathering activity with specific reference to the historical linguistic minorities present on the national territory.

The relevant data were collected through the Prefectures and were summarised and supplemented to be reported below.

VALLE d'AOSTA / VALLEE d'AOSTE

French, Franco-Provençal, German and Walser Germanic idioms

The **Valle d'Aosta/Vallee d'Aoste** is a Special Statute Region and it recognises the bilingualism of its population by placing Italian and French on the same standing and, at the same time, it protects the German-speaking minority culture and language with its *titsch* and *toitschu* varieties of the *Walser* community of the Valle del Lys as well as the Francoprovençal language.

Tuition and bilingualism in schools in Valle d'Aosta.

Awareness raising about linguistic and cultural diversity characterises the entire education of schools in Valle d'Aosta, from pre-school to second cycle education.

A provision implementing the Special Statute for the Valle d'Aosta introduced regional tests in French and German (for pupils of the *Walser* community), in addition to the INVALSI tests in Italian, referred to in Legislative Decree No 286 of 19 November 2004. For pupils in the third year of secondary school and for those in the fifth year of secondary school, these tests are an admission requirement to sit for the end-of-cycle State examination.

With reference to the **French language**, Articles 39 and 40 of the Special Statute are the legal basis for teaching in that language in schools at all levels.



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As a result, in compliance with the provisions of the Article 39 of the Statute, in the Valle d'Aosta schools, **French is taught for a weekly number of hours equal to those devoted to Italian; in addition, certain subjects may be taught in French.**

Regional Law No. 11 of 17 December 2018 regulates the holding of French language tests as part of the State examination of the second cycle of education in Valle d'Aosta (as provided for in the national reform); pupils must sit for the French language test in addition to the Italian language test (first part of the State examination) and to the second test which varies depending on the type of school; passing the French language test is a qualification that enables access to the regional and territorial employment lists for which the testing of knowledge of this language is compulsory.

The above mentioned regional law also introduces the French language test on comprehension and oral and written production, similar to the INVALSI tests on Italian, mathematics and English; successful candidates are granted a corresponding certificate.

A school in Aosta (Liceo classico, artistico e musicale- Bilingual section of the Classical Studies college) and a school in Verrès (the Istituzione scolastica di istruzione liceale, tecnica e professionale – Linguistic College section) issue the EsaBac Italian-French diploma, which is a qualification for university enrolment both in France and in Italy.

The study of **Franco-Provençal and of the German minority language of the Walser municipalities** are also guaranteed.

In particular, Article 40a of the Statute envisages the teaching of the **German minority language and the Walser languages**, through appropriate adjustments to local needs.

German is taught in the pre-school, primary and secondary schools of the E. Reinotti institution in Pont- Sant-Martin, only in the schools on the territory of the Walser community. The Walser languages are integrated in awareness-raising and promotion activities by external experts who take part in the class activities.

Middle school students who have passed the German examination are awarded a certificate from the 'Goethe Institut' in Turin.

Moreover, during the five-year period 2018/2022, the Walser Study and Culture Centre devoted a large part of its activities to the educational environment, adding institutional tutition with a wide range of initiatives, as follows: the constant distribution of Italian-German dictionaries to pupils attending the first year of lower secondary schools, the promotion of games containing



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Walser words, the support to university students in the drawing up of dissertations on the subject of minority languages, and the organisation of courses in *Titsch*, *Töitschu* and German.

As regards the dissemination and teaching of **Franco-Provençal (patois)** in schools, it should be noted that, for several decades, the regional administration has been offering Valle d'Aosta schools the '*Concours scolaire de patois "Abbé Jean-Baptiste Cerlogne"*' competition - named in memory of Abbé Jean-Baptiste Cerlogne - as an opportunity to promote and safeguard Franco-Provençal. At the beginning of each school year, the competition is launched with a research theme provided by the *Centre d'Études Francoprovençales René Willien*, which prepares a grid with various focuses for research to be carried out in *patois*.

In order to facilitate the process of enhancing the minority language, teachers are supported by animators who have expertise in Franco-Provençal; the approach is playful-didactic and aims at raising the pupils' interest in this language. In addition to being a traditional idiom, *patois* thus becomes a language of integration and a heritage shared by the entire Valle d'Aosta community. In addition, the Region, through its own organisational structure for the promotion of cultural identity - the *École populaire de patois* - organises yearly courses in the region for adults to learn Franco-Provençal (oral and written expression) as well as to deepen their knowledge of the local language and culture.

Other initiatives unrelated to the school system but relevant in the cultural sphere for the French language on the one hand and Walser idioms and Franco-Provençal on the other.

In the cultural field, regional and territorial libraries and the *Walser* Cultural Centre for *Walser* idioms offer books and multimedia material in the regional languages: French, Franco-Provençal, German and *Walser* languages.

Moreover, each year the regional administration promotes a cultural review called '*Saison culturelle*', containing theatre, music, film and cultural events in French and *patois*. There are also numerous amateur companies in the municipalities of the Valle d'Aosta that participate annually in the '*Printemps théâtral*' review.

Similarly, the Aosta theatre company, *Lo Charaban*, has been operating since 1958, presenting its *pièces* to the public for a whole week in autumn. The actors of this company come from different villages in Valle d'Aosta and, consequently, perform their parts using the variety of Franco-Provençal language of their home territory.



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Popular music in French, *patois* and in *Walser* language is also being studied and revisited between tradition and modernity.

Protection of the *Walser* minority culture

In the Lys valley, the preservation of the local minority culture is strongly felt. As a result, over the years not only have meetings been organised with the *Walser* communities in Piedmont and with cultural associations on the subject of historical Germanic languages, for a discussion on the subject and exchanges of experiences, but support has also been given to the **UNESCO candidature for the inclusion of the *Walser* culture in the Register of 'Good Safeguarding Practices'**.

To step up the will to defend their linguistic and cultural heritage, in 2021 the municipalities of the Upper Lys Valley, in synergy with the cultural associations of the territory, carried out a cognitive survey to identify risks and threats to the *Walser* culture with the identification of the corresponding safeguard actions to be implemented.

"Journées de la Francophonie"

Every year, in the week of 20 March, under the aegis of the International Organisation of the Francophonie, French speakers from the five continents are sent to celebrate the French language and testify to its richness. Each year, the Autonomous Region of Valle d'Aosta participates in this event with a rich programme of initiatives aimed at the general public, families, young people and children, as well as activities for schools and in the Region's libraries.

Oral and written use of the minority language in public administration.

Access to the civil service

Access to public employment in the Valle d'Aosta public sector is subject to passing a French language proficiency test, as indicated in Article 1 of Regional Law No. 22/2010, on '*New rules governing the organisation of the regional administration and the bodies of the single compartment of Valle d'Aosta. Repeal of Regional Law No 45 of 23 October 1995 and other laws on personnel matters*'.



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Specificities for identity documents

In the context of the National Register of Resident Population (ANPR), a collaboration has been initiated with the Ministry of the Interior for the French translation of the information contained in the ANPR internet portal and the registry certificates to be issued to users.

The critical issues related to the issuing of the bilingual electronic identity card which used to occur in the past have been overcome, as the full version of the card including its French part, is promptly available to the officials of the Valle d'Aosta municipalities when they process them.

Franco-Provençal language desk

Since 2007, Valle d'Aosta has had a language desk designed to facilitate relations between the public administration and citizens using Franco-Provençal. It is a centralised one-stop shop for the benefit of the municipalities where Franco-Provençal is spoken. This link is of strategic importance in the field of the protection and enhancement of minority languages and cultures, as it guarantees, promotes and disseminates their use in multiple contexts, including institutional ones, enabling the continuous upgrading of the numerous glossaries that characterise the *patois* variety. Various services are provided through the Desk, including translations and transcriptions of acts and documents of public utility, as well as the transcription of minutes of the Regional Council.

The Desk also provides a year-round front-office service, which is accessed by private individuals, economic operators, public administrations and various parties.

The ongoing updating of the portal www.patoisvda.org is also worth mentioning; the portal enables access to the Francoprovençal sound dictionary, various thematic manuals and some video clips related to the administrative language.

Other activities within the public administration

Interpretation services at municipal offices are not normally required, as the Franco-Provençal language is still sufficiently spoken.

Conversley, in order to safeguard *Walser* culture in connection with public administration, part of the municipal archives of Issime and Gressoney were computerised, and the photographic recording of the historical cadastral documentation of the Municipality of Issime kept at the Aosta Territory Office has been allocated to a relevant party.



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Dissemination of the minority language through mass – media, television and radio.

On the basis of Law No. 103 of 14 April 1975, in particular Article 19, RAI, regional office for Valle d'Aosta, broadcasts radio and television programmes in French.

With regard to the dissemination of minority languages in the mass media, the results of the latest linguistic monitoring are reported; it was carried out by the Regional Committee for Communications (Co.Re.Com) Valle d'Aosta on the Tgr and RAI information programmes produced in Valle d'Aosta in April 2021: despite the short period of time taken into consideration, the monitoring of public service programmes confirms the trend - identical over the years - in which the Italian language prevails (80%), followed by French (14%) and Franco-Provençal (6%). With reference to French, it is the language mainly used for cultural, nature and artistic heritage programmes.

At the beginning of 2023 the "Steering and Monitoring Committee" envisaged by the Convention entered into between the Presidency of the Council of Ministers - Department for Information and Publishing and Rai Com S.p.a., for the broadcasting of radio and television programmes in French in the Autonomous Region of Valle d'Aosta, was set up; the determination of the criteria for its actual operation is currently being defined.

It should also be noted that the main local printed periodicals (in particular, *La Vallée Notizie*, *Gazzetta Matin*), some online newspapers (*aostasera.it*, *aostenews24*, *aostacronaca.it*) and the press agencies Ansa and Dire publish articles in French, mainly on institutional or cultural topics, although mainly taken from press releases issued by the Region.

Lastly, the sector of periodical publications on mainly historical, cultural and linguistic subjects is worth mentioning which, despite the overall difficulties of the publishing sector, retains a certain vitality and a significant level of quality in Valle d'Aosta. In this area, the use of the French language and in some cases the Walser idioms prevails. The periodical publications include *Le Messenger Valdôtain*, the magazine *Le Flambeau* published by the *Comité des Traditions Valdôtaines*, mainly dedicated to historical, ethnographic and linguistic topics, the *Bulletin de l'Académie de Saint-Anselme* which collects scientific contributions on historical topics, the periodical *Nouvelles du Centre d'études francoprovençales René Willien*, the bulletin of the Aosta Valley section of the *Union de la presse francophone* and the *Rivista Augusta* of the Municipality of Issime published by the cultural association bearing the same name and written in Italian, French and *Töitschu*.



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Online publications

The use of digital technology and the Internet have facilitated the dissemination and sharing of publications in regional languages, making them available on the web.

On the 'Education' thematic channel of the Region's website, French-language publications for schools are available (https://www.regione.vda.it/istruzione/Publications/default_i.asp) and in particular the pedagogical magazine *L'école valdôtaine*, which devotes considerable space to bi/multilingual teaching/learning.

In addition, the regional administration has launched an intensive activity of publications in Franco-Provençal (books, DVDs and audio-books), reviewed and available at <https://www.patoisvda.org/it/patois-pubblicazioni-francoprovenzale>, and of teaching aids collected at <https://www.patoisvda.org/it/didattica-strumenti>.

Finally, the website of the *Walser* Study and Culture Centre collects publications on the Walser communities of Gressoney and Issime <https://www.centroculturalewalser.com/pubblicazioni>.

Toponymy.

The official denomination of place names in the Autonomous Region of Valle d'Aosta is governed by Regional Law No 61 of 9 December 1976, as amended, which lays down, on the one hand, the official denomination of the 74 municipalities in the region and, on the other, the rules for the protection of local toponymy. Under the second and third paragraphs of Article 1 novies of the same law, it is possible to indicate, varieties in minority languages and in Franco-Provençal, alongside the official names in French.

In application of the provisions established by the above mentioned law, the Regional Council appointed the members of the Commission for local toponymy, an advisory and technical-scientific assistance body. To date, the toponyms of 49 out of 74 municipalities have been officially recognized, and there are currently 4 municipalities that have chosen to add their names in Franco-Provençal to their official names. The Franco-Provençal toponyms can be retrieved on the Francoprovençal portal www.patoisvda.org.

There is, however, a growing tendency for municipalities to place the names in Franco-Provençal or, for *Walser* municipalities, in *titsch* and *töitschu*, alongside the official names on road signs.

The toponymy survey in Valle d'Aosta began in January 1987. Over a period of 30 years, therefore, the research has made it possible to create a database of approximately 76,700



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toponyms in their Franco-Provençal form available for public consultation at the offices of *BREL - Bureau Régional pour l'Ethnologie et la Linguistique*, which is part of the Regional Superintendency for Cultural Assets and Activities,. The dissemination of these results takes place through interactive DVDs dedicated to each municipality and with the geolocation of toponyms on the regional SCT platform, while the French-Provençal portal *patoisvda.org* publishes in-depth information on toponyms that reflect the customs and traditions of the Valle d'Aosta's culture.

Cross-border exchanges and international cooperation.

Cross-border exchanges with France and Switzerland (the French- and German-speaking canton of Valais) are strongly encouraged by the regional administration and supported through participation in European cooperation programmes (Interreg. France-Italy ALCOTRA).

International cooperation is boosted by **participation in various European programmes (ESF, Erasmus+), as well as by Aosta Valley's membership of the International Organisation of the Francophonie (OIF).**

Several schools in Valle d'Aosta have been awarded the *LabelFranceEducation*, an acknowledgement for French-speaking bilingual education, by the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs.

Following the stepping up of the process of European construction and the increasingly incisive role of the activities of the European Union, and in particular of the Committee of the Regions, since 1998 the regional administration has set up an office in Brussels tasked, among others, to promote the participation of the Region in the Thematic Programmes directly managed by the European Commission and to support the realisation of promotional and internationalisation development initiatives. **In the field of education, the Regional Education Department is a partner in European Erasmus+ projects on the topic of promoting multilingualism. Three Erasmus projects are currently active.**

It is therefore confirmed that about 67% of the regional population knows Franco-Provençal and 45% use quite regularly. For Walser idioms, the percentage of knowledge by residents of the Lys Valley municipalities is about 77%; about 51% of the inhabitants of these municipalities claim to understand and use it.



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PIEDMONT

Occitan language, Walser Germanic idiom French and Franco-Provençal languages

Ever since the adoption of law no. 482/1999, 'Rules for the protection of historical linguistic minorities', the metropolitan city of Turin has been the leader of a network of municipalities for the implementation of projects relating to the Calls for Proposals issued every year by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers for the implementation of the law in question. The projects in the metropolitan area of Turin cover three linguistic minorities in particular: **French, Franco-Provençal and Occitan**. The municipalities surveyed by the metropolitan city of Turin as minority language territories number 89, retrievable online on the following website at <http://www.cittametropolitana.torino.it/cms/patrimonio-artistico-culturale-storico/minoranze-linguistiche>. As of today, the project managed by the Chambrà d'Oc association, identified through a public procedure, is underway and the following 49 municipalities have joined:

- for the French minority: Municipalities of Bardonecchia, Chiomonte, Exilles, Oulx, Salbertrand, Susa;
- for the Franco-Provençal minority: Municipalities of Mompantero, Novalesa, Moncenisio, Giaglione, Susa, Vaie, Villar Focchiardo, Sant'Antonino di Susa, Condove, Mattie, Chianocco, San Giorio di Susa, Gravere, Meana di Susa, Traves, Avigliana, Caprie, Coazze, Valgioie, Giaveno, Frassinetto, Pont Canavese, Alpette, Locana, Noasca, Sparone, Ribordone, Usseglio, Lemie, Viù, Groscavallo, Valprato Soana, Ronco Canavese, Ingria, Ceresole Reale;
- for the Occitan minority: municipalities of Bardonecchia, Cesana Torinese, Chiomonte, Exilles, Oulx, Salbertrand, Sauze di Cesana, Sauze d'Oulx.

Use and teaching of the minority language.

With regard to the use and teaching of the minority language, a workshop activity in the Francoprovençal language exists in the Ronco Canavese, Frassinetto, Ceresole Reale and Valprato Soana school complexes, in agreement with the Pont Canavese Comprehensive Institute, and in the Viù school complex, in agreement with the 'Murialdo' Comprehensive Institute of Ceres; this activity involves primary school and nursery school pupils. The workshops, held during non-



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school hours, involve learning the language through didactic games, role-playing, listening to and learning traditional fairy tales and songs.

Oral and written use of the minority language in public administration.

In relation to the oral and written use of minority languages in the Public Administration, both at a national and local level, the Project for the Protection and Enhancement of Language Minorities is worth mentioning. It envisages the presence of web desks through which a selection of administrative acts, drafted in Italian and in the minority language, is offered to the public, with a bilingual presentation article. Moreover, every month, the most significant resolutions of the municipalities of the network headed by the leading partner are selected and supplemented with a bilingual explanatory article; they are published and made known on the Facebook pages dedicated to the Language Desks and on the *Chambra d'Oc* association's website. The objective is to promote and disseminate the use of minority languages in the Public Administration and in relations between the Public Administration and citizens.

In addition to the above mentioned web desks, in collaboration with representatives of the minorities, the project provided for front/itinerant desks, dedicated to interpreting, linguistic mediation, correspondence in the language, and the upgrading and publication of useful materials to promote and disseminate the use of the language in the Public Administration and in relations between the Public Administration and citizens. The front/itinerant desks are located as follows: with reference to the Franco-Provençal language, in the municipality of Giaglione at the Ce.S.Do.Me.O. (Centro Studi Documentazione Memoria Orale - Oral Memory Documentation Study Centre) offices, in the Municipality of Usseglio at the "Tazzetti" Civic Museum, in the Municipality of Giaveno at the municipal library, at the municipal headquarters of the Municipality of San Giorgio di Susa, at the headquarters of the Mountain Union of the Municipality of Locana; with reference to the French language, at the headquarters of the Cottian Alps Park Authority of the Municipality of Salbertrand; for the Occitan language, in the Municipality of Oulx at the headquarters of the Upper Susa Valley Forestry Consortium.



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Dissemination of the minority language in the media.

The metropolitan city of Turin disseminates timely updates on the development stages of the Project for the implementation of law no. 482/99 through press releases, posts on the social channels Facebook, Instagram, Telegram, Twitter, Youtube, LinkedIn, on the institutional website www.cittametropolitana.torino.it/cms and on the weekly agency "Cronache da Palazzo Cisterna" www.cittametropolitana.torino.it/ufstampa/cronache.

Other minorities in the region

In the Vercelli area, particularly in the Alta Valsesia (VC) territory, comprising the municipalities of Alagna, Riva Valdobbia, Rimella and Alto Sermenza, there are communities of inhabitants originating from the ancient *Walser* colonies on Monte Rosa. Specific language desks are active in these localities.

In the municipality of Alagna, a *Walser* language course is run for primary school pupils, financed by a private association, and regular appointments are organised in primary schools to stimulate children's approach to the minority language. The use of the *Walser* language in urban toponymy is also implemented.

The printed dissemination of newspapers in the *Walser* language is made possible by local cultural associations. There is a reference magazine '*Wir Walser*', published in Brig in the Swiss Valais, with which the *Walser* community collaborates. The municipality of Rimella has financed *Walser* language courses for municipal employees, while the association 'Centro Studi di Rimella' finances workshops for adults and children. The aforementioned Study Centre has also been a member of the 'Unitary Committee of Historical Germanic Linguistic Islands in Italy' for about twenty years. Finally, the use of the local language desk is highly appreciated.

The following minority entities are present in **the Cuneo territory**.

The Unione Montana Valle Maira (CN) is an Occitan-speaking territory that has undergone a slow penetration of the Piedmontese dialect over the last fifty years. There are no schools in the valley that teach the Occitan language, but there are various cultural initiatives.

In public administration offices, Occitan is present and used orally.

There is a local monthly magazine in Occitan.

The Maira Valley was a pioneer in the use and valorisation of Occitan toponymy; actually, the entire area has bilingual toponymy.



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The Unione Montana Valle Varaita (CN) is an Occitan-speaking territory. There are didactic projects aimed at fostering the knowledge of the Occitan language and culture through activities related to handicrafts. In public administration offices Occitan is present and used orally. Radio broadcasts in minority languages are broadcast in the area and there is bilingual toponymy.

The Unione Montana Monviso (CN) is an Occitan territory, and this language is present and used orally in public administration offices.

The Unione Montana Valle Stura (CN) is also an Occitan-speaking territory. A bilingual theatre workshop is in operation at the preschools.

As mentioned above, there are language desks and in the public administration offices Occitan is spoken by employees. Bilingual toponymy is also present.

VENETO

Cimbrian and Ladin languages

With reference to the Veneto Region, **Regional Law No. 30 of 25 October 2021 'Promotion of the linguistic minorities present in the Veneto Region'** launched a new strategy for the **protection and safeguard of the linguistic minorities present in Veneto**, combining the traditional support of projects carried out by the Associations representing the communities where Cimbrian, Ladin and Friulian are spoken with **regional projects and calls for tenders addressed to local authorities, associations and cultural bodies in the territory, on a non-profit basis**.

In this context, at the time of the first application of the new regional regulation, with DGR no. 16 of 11 January 2022, an initial survey on the Region's linguistic communities was carried out, in order to define an overall picture of the number of speakers, the degree of preservation and use of minority languages and, more generally, any risks to their survival. By Decree no. 7 of 28 January 2022, of the Director of the Organisational Unit for International Cooperation, a notice was issued to select cultural organisations of the Third Sector with specific experience in the field of linguistic minorities, capable of carrying out the survey in question. Subsequently, following a co-planning activity carried out pursuant to Article 55, paragraph 5, of Legislative Decree no. 117/2017, the socio-linguistic research activity was entrusted to the Società Filologica Friulana G.I. Ascoli APS of Udine, for a total amount of euro 30,000.00. The research activity resulted in a



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document entitled "**Final socio-linguistic research project on the state of minority languages in Veneto and the preparation of the regional language policy plan**", approved by **DDR no. 40 of 02 May 2022 of the Director of the Organisational Unit for International Cooperation, and formally started with the signing of the convention on 3 May 2022**. The study, coordinated by the scientific head Luca Melchior, lecturer in linguistics at the *Alpen-Adria-Universität* in Klagenfurt am Wörthersee, was supported by a Scientific Committee made up of experts with advisory and monitoring functions on the research activities. In order to acquire the information for the realisation of the study, given the breadth of the territory under investigation, a sociolinguistic questionnaire developed in the EUSurvey platform was promoted in the municipalities concerned, to allow for personal data processing guarantees in accordance with European legislation. The field survey took place from 1 December 2022 to 11 April 2023. Following the elaboration of the contents, the preliminary results of the survey were shared with the three linguistic communities (Cimbrian, Ladin and Friulian) during a number of presentation meetings held in the period June-September 2023, which enabled the enriching presentation of stimuli and proposals that were faithfully integrated in the final elaboration.

By virtue of Regional Council Resolution no. 1486/ DGR of 27/11/2023, the results of the survey on the language communities in Veneto were acknowledged, as set out below in the document 'Survey on the language communities in Veneto', at the following link www.regione.veneto.it/en/web/relazioni-internazionali/indagine-socio-linguistica.

Presence of linguistic minorities in some municipalities.

Ladin linguistic minorities live in the **municipalities of Anpezo/Cortina d'Ampezzo (BL), Col/Colle Santa Lucia (BL) and Fodom/Livillalongo del Col di Lana**.

In the municipality of Cortina, in particular, school activities aimed at historical, cultural and linguistic enhancement are planned.

A Language Desk is available at the town halls and it is possible to address the staff in charge in Ladin, both orally and in writing.

There is a Ladin-language news programme in the territory (RAI Ladinia), local radio stations that broadcast programmes in the minority language, and a Ladin press organ, both printed and digital. Bilingualism is also present in the toponymy.

The **Asiago Plateau is home to** a Cimbrian linguistic minority. The language and cultural elements are transmitted through various types of proposals, such as educational meetings with experts



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and musical concerts. There is a website 'Cimbri dei Comuni' (www.cimbri7comuni.it) implemented and constantly updated.

The language and historical-cultural heritage of the Cimbrian minority continue to be the subject of initiatives to promote, preserve and recover identity. **In 2021, the Cimbrian Ecomuseum of the Seven Municipalities (www.ecomuseosettecomuni.it) was set up in the municipality of Rotzo**, which consists in a network of easy-to-access and clearly signposted routes that lead to knowledge and exploration of the territory. Visitors are accompanied by installations dedicated to place names and the roots of the Cimbrian history of the Sette Comuni are narrated. In 2022, the Garden of Memory (in Cimbrian, '*Garto dar Gadénkhe*') was set up to complete the Ecomuseum. In 2019, the Rotzo Cultural Centre ('*Z Haus dar Bikkekhot Rotz*') was created, which houses the Civic Library with a large and constantly updated library on local culture and the Cimbrian minorities. Every year, from October to May, the Cimbrian Culture Institute of the Roana Municipality organises a Cimbrian language course at this centre. Knowledge of the Cimbrian language is also promoted by the Sportello Linguistico Cimbri dei Sette Comuni (Cimbrian Language Desk of the Seven Municipalities), located at the headquarters of the Unione Montana "Spettabile Reggenza dei Sette Comuni", through the organisation of meetings with experts and those who wish to keep alive and pass on knowledge of the idiom. Publications, books, magazines, music and language CDs and DVDs, vocabularies, grammars and various didactic and dissemination material are available at the Sportello. In close collaboration with local organisations and associations, meetings and Cimbrian language and culture courses are also organised and links with the various media are maintained. Other initiatives aimed at promoting and preserving Cimbrian culture are listed below: the Cimbrian Market of Rotzo ("*Tzimbar Maaketle Rotz*") which, since 2018, every Tuesday in July and August presents stalls selling local handicrafts, typical gastronomic products, books on local history, language, toponymy and Cimbrian culture; the Filò dei Cimbri- cycles of cultural evenings which have been organised for almost twenty years in the summer period to disseminate topics on local history and dialogues in the Cimbrian language the Gruppo Cimbri di Recoaro Terme (Cimbrian Group of Recoaro Terme), which, starting in 2018, has revived an ancient tradition linked to the small church of Santa Margherita di Castelletto di Rotzo where a rite, is revived every 20 July, on the the day that commemorates the saint, through a procession that winds its way from the centre of Rotzo to the same small church, where a mass is celebrated in the Cimbrian language with ancient songs; the Cimbrian Chorale, which was founded in 1979 with the intention of reviving



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the liturgy in the Cimbrian language; it has spread the Cimbrian chants in many religious events in the Plateau, Veneto and Bavaria. A project is currently being implemented to publish a booklet for primary school children to support the preservation of terms, nursery rhymes and place names in the Cimbrian language, in current use in the Sette Comuni.

Two language desks operate at the Mountain Union and the Institute of Cimbrian Culture, and there is a periodical that disseminates information and news on events of importance to the Cimbrian communities.

Bilingualism in toponymy is present and the majority of residents in the territory have a patronymic surname in Cimbrian. Although there are no reported cooperation activities related to the European Union programmes, there are active initiatives with other Cimbrian communities in northern Italy, Austria and Bavaria.

Finally, the natural, cultural and linguistic heritage of the Cimbrian, Ladin and Friulian minorities in Veneto was mapped between 2018 and 2023 within the PRIMIS project.

TRENTINO - ALTO ADIGE

Ladin, Mòcheno and Cimbrian language

First of all, it must be considered that South Tyrol enjoys the wide prerogatives assigned by the Special Statute for Trentino - Alto Adige (Presidential Decree No. 670/1972) and its implementing rules approved by the Government, in agreement with the joint commissions, whose members are representatives of the linguistic minorities, representatives of the State, of the Autonomous Provinces of Bolzano and Trento, and of the Autonomous Region of Trentino - Alto Adige/Südtirol.

The autonomous framework thus delineated also guarantees the **German and Ladin-speaking minorities** direct management of competences of specific interest to them, including those concerning education and culture pertaining to each ethnic group and the related protection of measures adopted by the public administration.

In the territory of the Autonomous Province of Trento, there are Ladin, Mòcheno and Cimbrian language minorities. In 2017, projects were activated to provide the necessary didactic and cultural tools for teachers who make use of the minority language in their teaching.

Since 2012, there have been language desks in the area for different minorities.



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Radio and television programmes dedicated to the Ladin, Mòcheno and Cimbrian communities are also envisaged.

In the language minority municipalities of the Trentino region, there is also toponymy in minority languages.

The Province's membership of the NPLD network (Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity), which operates in the area of language policy and planning, in close contact with EU bodies, is worth mentioning.

The already extensive level of protection was further extended with the approval of **Regional Law No. 3 of 24 May 2018 on the protection and promotion of linguistic minorities.**

It should also be pointed out that since the approval of the provincial law on minorities - no. 6 of 2008 - the action of the Province of Trento has been aimed at enhancing the local linguistic minorities, Ladin, Mòchena and Cimbrian, by fully implementing the law itself and favouring, first and foremost, the use of the minority language as a prerequisite for safeguarding the cultural diversity of the populations concerned.

In this sense, all projects and initiatives that are financed by the **Provincial Fund for the Protection of Minority Populations**, provided for by law and aimed at financing projects and initiatives to safeguard and promote the minorities residing in the territory of the Province of Trento (with the exception of those of a cultural nature included in the language policy plan approved by the Comun General de Fascia), must have the direct and relevant purpose of safeguarding and enhancing the minority language. All interventions must, therefore, present contents and objectives directly related to the minority language and in practice must aim at the knowledge, safeguard, promotion, valorisation, written and oral use of the minority languages.

To this end, the Autonomous Province supports and strengthens all those actions and entities that are committed to the protection and promotion of minority populations, such as institutes, schools, municipalities and valley communities.

Use and teaching of minority languages.

As far as school teaching is concerned, the pedagogical model chosen in the pre-schools envisages a time division between the two teaching languages, Italian and Ladin. For some years now, the chosen 'linguistic organisational model' has been that of weekly (or monthly) alternation: for one week (or month) the school language is Italian and for the following week (or month) Ladin.



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With reference to the Ladin language, the provincial curricula envisage the use and teaching of the language in the first cycle of education and in the second cycle of education and training in Ladin institutes (Scola ladina de Fascia), in accordance with Article 2 of Legislative Decree No 592 of 1993. In practice, one compulsory hour of curricular Ladin and two hours of vehicular Ladin. For secondary school, Ladin is a compulsory subject (1 hour) for students who have always attended the Ladin school, optional for the others.

The Scola Ladina de Fascia has established a collaboration relationship with the schools of the minority localities in the Province of Trento (Network between minority schools) and specifically with I.C. Pergine 1 (Mòcheno minority) and I.C. Folgaria, Lavarone and Luserna (Cimbrian minority). The objectives are: collaboration in methodological, curricular and disciplinary research, in particular with regard to the areas of intervention relating to minority languages; the implementation of innovative projects; the exchange of experiences, proposals and teaching units in order to disseminate the best teaching practices as widely as possible; the production of teaching materials.

With regard to the **Mòcheno language**, the Fierozzo primary school implements various projects for language enhancement, including the preservation of Mòcheno as a minority language. In addition, there is a project in place in the school that provides for the vehicular teaching of the German language and the teaching of the language and culture of the Mòcheno community from the first to the fourth class.

The establishment of university advanced training courses for teaching minority languages is particularly significant. The advanced training of teachers teaching minority languages, in fact, had been a need for several years for both the Ladin community and the German-speaking communities, suggesting, in particular, a systematic and lasting intervention in collaboration with the Universities of Trento and Bolzano.

The training course for Ladin language teachers ANTROPOLAD has been running since 2017, it was established by the Faculty of Education in Bolzano in agreement with the University of Trento, the Free University of Bolzano and the Scola Ladina di Fassa. Also in 2017, the first edition of the advanced course for teaching German-speaking languages called 'Teaching and learning minority languages' was held at the University of Trento (UNITN). A second edition of the course will be launched in 2024.

It should also be noted that each year the Autonomous Province of Trento identifies a number of projects related to the use of the minority language in schools, as significant initiatives to be



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financed; for 2023, the following are just a few examples "Vehicular communication in the Mòchena language in the Fierozzo/Vlarotz kindergarten" of the Mòcheno/Bersntoler Kulturinstitut Institute; " La Val dei Mòcheni tra gioco e realtà", a project of the Istituto Comprensivo Pergine 1 characterised by the use of specific teaching strategies "Alla scoperta delle lingue e del territorio delle minoranze linguistiche" (Discovering the languages and territory of the linguistic minorities), which is part of the broader project for the enhancement and protection of the Cimbrian language and culture and which envisages for the year 2023, a request for support for the "pupil training" area, in order to give continuity to the "0-6" project implemented in the Luserna nursery and pre-school and to continue to favour the didactic and socio-relational situations functional to the learning and consolidation of both the Cimbrian language and culture.

Use of minority languages in public administration.

With regard to the use of minority languages in public offices, Provincial Law **no. 6 of 19 June 2008**, "**Rules for the promotion and protection of local linguistic minorities**", guarantees citizens belonging to minority populations in the province of Trento - in particular in the territories identified by art. 3 of the above mentioned law - the right to the effective use of their own language in their relations with public administrations, institutions and concessionary companies operating in their respective territories and provides for the obligation of local authorities to guarantee the translation into the minority language of public acts and individual acts drawn up by the administration and intended for public use.

In order to comply with the provisions of the law, the addressee bodies must have staff capable of ensuring the written and spoken use of the language, as well as ensuring the translation of documents.

As far as the municipalities of the Valle di Fassa are concerned, language promotion activities have been carried out, from the very beginning, at supra-municipal level, through the district in accordance with Article 25 of Provincial Law 6/2008. At present, according to the proposals of the Ladin Council, the Comun General de Fascia provides for the linguistic planning actions necessary for the valorisation and protection of the language, through a structure made up of six staff units that ensure the activity of translation and contact in the Ladin language for all the interested municipalities of the territory.



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Following the establishment of the communities provided for by the **provincial law on institutional reform of 16 June 2006, no. 3 – “Provisions on the Government of the Autonomous Region of Trentino”** - also the Alta Valsugana e Bersntol community and the Magnifica Comunità degli altipiani cimbri planned to equip themselves with a facility to ensure translation services and the effective use of the language in the community itself and in the minority communities of the territory. To this end, the administrative language desks were activated in the above mentioned communities as well.

As of 2011, therefore, the sums necessary to continuously sustain the expenditure of the personnel needed to provide the language desk service are included within the ordinary transfers assigned by the Province to the communities for their operation.

Provincial Law No. 3/2006 also deals with the area of training, assessment and certification of the language skills of Ladins, Mòchenos and Cimbrians.

Article 18, in particular, introduces an innovative solution aimed not only at protecting and promoting the minority language, but also at allowing citizens belonging to minority populations to use their own language in oral and written communication with the public administration. In addition, the combined provisions of Articles 18 and 32 of the aforementioned provincial law establish the criterion of knowledge of the minority language as a prerequisite for obtaining precedence in recruitment in public employment in the offices of local and provincial authorities that are obliged to use the language itself.

In implementation of the principles provided for in the above mentioned provincial law, and in order to allow for an effective protection of identity and a development that is able to enhance the diversity and peculiarities of the minorities themselves, it is also provided that the assessment of knowledge of the language of the minorities is carried out by the reference Communities (Comun General de Fascia, Comunità Alta Valsugana e Bersntol, Magnifica Comunità degli Altipiani Cimbri), that avail themselves of a Commission made up by three experts, one of whom is designated by the Cultural Institute of reference, one by the school (or, for the Mòchena and Cimbra populations, by the Provincial Council which refers to the educational sphere) and one by the Community itself.

There is also a single commission for ascertaining knowledge of the minority language in both the civil service and the school, and the certificate of knowledge of the language has value in both fields; for this reason, when the assessment procedure also concerns school teaching staff



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(including pre-schools), the commission is supplemented by an expert in the language of reference, as provided for by current legislation.

The assessment of the individual's level of competence is carried out in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) recommended by the Council of Europe.

In implementation of the above mentioned legislation, the Provincial Council approved criteria and procedures for the assessment and evaluation of knowledge of minority language and culture.

Finally, language training is provided, through the organisation of specific training courses, by the Scuola ladina de Fascia for the Ladin language and by the Cultural Institutes of reference for Germanic languages (Bersntoler Kulturinstitut/Mòcheno Institute for the Mòcheno language and Kulturinstitut Lusérn/Cimbrian Institute for the Cimbrian language).

The translation of institutional communication into minority languages is particularly significant.

On the occasion of the pandemic, a new method was tried out that proved to be very effective: through collaboration between the Autonomous Province's Press Office and the language desks of the minority communities, the files of communications to be translated were sent to the language desks in a timely manner. Precisely in the light of the excellent results achieved on that occasion, the collaboration activity thus undertaken between the Autonomous Province, through the Linguistic Minorities and European Audit Service, the Press Office, the Health Authority and the Language Desks located in the Valley Communities, for the translation of institutional communication into the three minority languages of Trentino, is still ongoing. In the meantime this institutional communication project has evolved and no longer concerns topics related only to linguistic minorities. The aim of the initiative is to bring minorities into a broader communication campaign, reversing the concept underlying, for example, the Minority Safepack campaign (aimed exclusively at the topic of linguistic minorities), in order to 'normalise' minority languages. Translated communiqués are then published on the official website of the Autonomous Province, where they remain available in an online 'container' called 'Linguistic Minorities': this is a dedicated section within the PAT's online daily newspaper 'il Trentino'. The translated news are also taken up, depending on the topic, by the Province's official Facebook page and are also systematically published on the website dedicated to the region's historical linguistic minorities and on the relevant Facebook page. Local authorities, such as the valley



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communities and municipalities, have also undertaken to disseminate the translated releases through their media channels.

Dissemination of the minority language in the media.

Particular importance for the protection of linguistic minorities in Trentino has been recognised in the media, as instruments of knowledge, dissemination and normalisation of the minority language among the respective communities.

The abovementioned Provincial Law No. 3/2006 on Linguistic Minorities recognises the right to information, both written and audiovisual, in the language of each community.

We report the timely intervention aimed at restoring signal reception in the area of the Municipality of Palù del Fersina/Palai en Bersntol, which, due to the new structure of television services and the related *switch-off* that took place in February 2022, was not covered, with the consequent lack of visibility of local networks. The problem was solved with the installation of a new system by EI Towers (the sole network operator as assignee of the frequencies for the Trentino - Alto Adige basin) on the Lenzi site (Municipality of Palù del Fersina/Palai en Bersntol), following the extension of the master plan referred to in the right of use of the CH 41 frequency for the digital service in the local area TECHNICAL AREA 4A- TRENTO, in order to guarantee the effective use of local television broadcasts. In *the meantime*, the legal representative of Gruppo Editoriale Trentino G.E.T. s.r.l. transmitted the economic proposal of EI Towers in order to ensure the urgent integration of the above mentioned channel 41.

Furthermore, the objective of guaranteeing, on a general level, the effective reception of local television broadcasts, was the subject of a resolution of the **Provincial Council, no. 2318 of 16 December 2022, which ordered the identification, within the framework of the programme of interventions for minority language information for the year 2023, of the actions necessary to guarantee the reception in the Mòcheni area of local channels that carry numerous minority products**, using the local broadcaster GET s.r.l. The service was, therefore, entrusted to the operator GET s.r.l. in order to make the Valle dei Mòcheni reach the broadcasts of the generalist local networks.

It should also be noted that from 2011 until the recent *switch off*, a television channel, TML - Tele Minoranze Linguistiche - was in operation; pending a new assignment, an experimental service is currently running.

At the same time, in the course of 2021, numerous discussions took place with the Region in order to have the existing convention between the Region, EGTC and ORF for ORF's German-



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language programmes, conveyed by RAS, extended to the entire territory of Trentino. The convention is currently in force and the issues related to its concrete operation are being solved.

From 2004 to February 2022, the Province entered into an agreement with RAI for the broadcasting of television and radio programming in the German and Ladin languages on the territory of the Province of Trento, including the territory constituting the historical settlement area of the Ladin and German-speaking minority. At present, once the *refarming* operations have been completed, RAI broadcasts can be seen in free-to-air.

With reference to the programme of measures for minority language information, drawn up yearly by the Provincial Council, this programme identifies the implementing bodies for the financial year 2023 and defines the following measures to support minority language media: fortnightly page in Mòcheno "*Liaba Lait*" in the local daily newspaper edited by the Mòcheno Institute/Bersntoler Kulturinstitut; fortnightly page in Cimbrian "*Di Sait vo Lusérn*" in the local daily newspaper edited by the Cimbrian Institute/Kulturinstitut Lusérn; weekly news programme in Mòcheno "*Sim to en Bersntol*" on the local radio station edited by the Mòcheno Institute/Bersntoler Kulturinstitut; weekly news bulletin in Cimbrian "*Zimbar Earde*" on local broadcasting station by the Cimbrian Institute/Kulturinstitut Lusérn; extension of the broadcasting of the weekly Cimbrian news bulletin "*Zimbar Earde*" to the whole Cimbrian area, including the seven municipalities of the Asiago plateau and the 13 municipalities of the Province of Verona by the Cimbrian Institute/Kulturinstitut Lusérn; FAD Cimbrian courses with independent learning available on the e-learning platform in the "Mediateca Cimbra" area of the Institute's website edited by the Cimbrian Institute/ Kulturinstitut Lusérn; Cimbrian newspaper "*Dar Foldjo*" edited by the Cimbrian Cultural Institute of Luserna/Lusérn; municipal bulletin in Mòcheno "*Bersntoler zaitung*" edited by the municipality of Palù del Fersina/Palai en Bersntol (lead municipality of the three Mòcheno municipalities) TV productions in Ladin to implement the programmes of TV Ladina on youtube or other spaces for the minorities on channels not expressly dedicated by the Comun General de Fascia; "Ladin press and publishing" by the Comun General de Fascia for periodical publications (e.g. the magazine "Gana") and for the direct production or support to publications of the CGF or of other subjects of the cultural world of Fascia; radio programmes in Ladin language produced by Radio Studio Record of Canazei/Cianacei and by the Union di Ladins de Fascia, edited by the Comun General de Fascia; weekly magazine "*La Usc di Ladins*" edited by the association "*Union Generèla di Ladins dla Dolomites*".



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Initiatives aimed at raising awareness of Trentino's linguistic cultural diversity.

The most relevant initiatives undertaken in the region are outlined below.

- **Coordination between minority community bodies and provincial services**

The horizontal and complex nature of the issues related to the conditions for the maintenance, development and promotion of minority populations and their territories required that the Province, within the sphere of its competences, was equipped with a point of coordination and connection between the various structures and realities that deal with linguistic minorities, so as to make it possible to manage issues related to linguistic minorities with due professionalism and competence, guaranteeing the necessary consistency. In 2020, therefore, a permanent Coordination Table for policies concerning local linguistic minorities was established and activated, involving all institutional stakeholders, in order to guarantee the coordination and drive of the relevant policies pursuant to Article 11(1)(b) of the above mentioned Provincial Law on Minorities, No. 3/2006. Since its establishment, all contacts have been handled bilaterally.

- **Collaboration between minorities at European level**

The Province's membership of the Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity continues - (NPLD) is a Europe-wide network that works in the field of language policy and planning for constitutional, regional and small community languages and brings together national and regional governments, as well as universities and various associations. The main aim of the network is to support the importance of linguistic diversity on a European level, including the exchange of good practices among the various stakeholders. The network works closely with the European Commission, the Parliament and the Council of Europe and it is an important platform for dialogue between all those working in the field of languages, especially minority languages.

Each year the Province pays the membership fee to the Association, which amounts to 15,000.00 euro.

During 2022, the NPLD held its General Assembly and Management Committee in Brussels on 18 - 19 May 2022. The Assembly was followed by a training and project



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presentation conference entitled 'Regional and Minority Languages and the European Union'.

In addition, from 5 to 7 October 2022, the second planned Steering Committee was held in Cardiff, Wales, followed by the training conference 'Safe Spaces to Encourage Language Use'.

Through the Ladin Cultural Institute, the Province of Trento worked with the Province of Friesland (involving other NPLD partners) on the second edition of the **ECCA-European Charter Classroom Activities project**, which aims at raising awareness in minority schools about the rights of lesser-used languages and to educate the younger generations on this issue, which is primarily called for by the Council of Europe. On 22 September 2023, the Province of Trento organised, in collaboration with other partners, the final closing meeting of the above mentioned ECCA project at the headquarters of the Representation of the European Region of Tyrol - South Tyrol - Trentino (Rue de Pascale, 45-47 - 1040 Brussels).

Survey on the status of minority languages.

A sociolinguistic survey aimed at recording the actual practices of minority language use in family and public contexts and the attitudes of speakers towards the language of their community has been included in the Province-University of Trento guideline act, approved by resolution of the Provincial Council no. 1400 of 18 September 2020, as an activity of common interest. The aim is also to provide the actors in charge with the support and useful and necessary elements to set up language policy actions in an innovative and effective manner. The data collected will, in fact, serve as the basis for drawing up a report indicating clear language policy guidelines for actions aimed at safeguarding and strengthening multilingualism in minority communities. The activity undertaken is being coordinated by a Technical Board made up by the University of Trento, the Local Linguistic Minorities and European Audit Service of the Autonomous Province, the Directors of the Cultural Institutes of reference of the local linguistic minorities and two sociolinguistic experts identified by the University of Trento, in agreement with the representatives of the minorities and the Province. The research was completed and presented on 16 December 2022 in Trento, as part of the "Dialogues with Minorities" meetings. The dissemination of the results and language policy guidelines for interventions to minority communities is underwa; the interventions are aimed at the formulation of a strategy for the



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decade 2020-2030 for reversing the process of erosion and loss of minority languages in the Province of Trento, which are now strongly threatened with extinction.

For the results of the above-mentioned survey and further details, please refer to the CLAM research website at: <https://cimbro-ladino-mòcheno-2021.lett.unitn.it>.

Still in the sphere of investigation and research activities, the funding of a study activity by the Province of Trento is worth mentioning; the study aimed at producing a **handbook for civic education entitled 'Minorities and Inclusive Society'**. The activity was included in the **PAT-UNITN Guideline Act 2020-2022**, approved by the Provincial Council resolution no. 1400 of 18 September 2020. The objective of the didactic-pedagogical handbook is to create a civic and citizenship education pathway for secondary schools, which will serve as a clear and direct tool for students to think critically about the society in which they live, encounter it and deal with it. The handbook intends to focus on peoples who, in the complex current scenario, qualify as minorities - de jure or de facto and according to different aspirations or conditions.

The work on the handbook was completed at the end of 2022, and it was presented as part of the "*Dialogues with Minorities*" series of meetings last May, creating an opportunity to discuss civic education with the local community, with particular reference to the current situation and history of this topic in the Trentino community and the historical linguistic communities of Trentino.

The publication, in 2021, of the volume "*Popoli senza Frontiere 2. Tradizioni e territori delle minoranze linguistiche storiche del Trentino. Cimbri, Ladins and Mòcheni*", is also worth mentioning; the volume was published **with the eminent collaboration of the Central Institute for the Intangible Heritage at the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism**, and therefore distributed at relevant cultural institutions, libraries and schools.

Since 2021, the Autonomous Province's Service for Linguistic Minorities and European Auditing has put forward the organisation of a series of meetings aimed at the topics of interest and foundations of the Province's minority identity. The aim of the meetings is precisely the dissemination of the outcomes of the above-mentioned activities, in particular the sociolinguistic research, the Project for the Handbook on Minorities and Inclusive Society, entrusted to the University of Trento, and the volume "*Peoples without Borders*".

In the framework of the project, the following topics were addressed: CLAM 2021 (Cimbro Ladino Mòcheno 2021), presentation of the results of the survey on the status of the Cimbrian, Ladin and Mòcheno minority languages carried out in collaboration with the University of Trento;



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presentation of the book "*Le isole linguistiche germaniche fioriscono*" (Germanic linguistic islands flourish), edited by the Comitato unitario delle isole linguistiche storiche germaniche in Italia; presentation of the book "*Popoli senza Frontiere 2. Cimbri, Ladini e Mòcheni*" edited by the Central Institute for the Intangible Heritage of the Ministry of Culture (Edizioni Effigi) and the exhibition "*Traditions are up to date. Looks at the Cimbrian, Ladin and Mòchena communities*". In 2023, in April, "*Cimbrian, Ladin and Mòchena: three languages to be savde. Projects for the protection and promotion of Trentino's historical language communities*".

Subsequently, in May 2023, a new appointment in the cycle of meetings "*Dialogues with Minorities*" was held, the theme of which was "*Minorities and inclusive society: an opportunity to talk about civic and citizenship education. The topicality and history of this topic in the Trentino community and the historical linguistic communities of Trentino*".

During 2022, the brochure "*Cimbri, Ladini, Mòcheni 3 peoples to meet*" (*Cimbri, Ladini, Mòcheni 3 populi da conoscere*) was revised, in the Italian, English and German versions, as well as in the local minority languages; a nimble publication, which leads to the discovery of what is undoubtedly part of Trentino's wealth: the presence of the Ladin, Mòchena and Cimbra language minorities. The brochure was also distributed in Brussels on 26 September 2022, during an event organised by the Provinces of Trento and Bolzano - and held in collaboration between the Province of Trento, the Province of Bolzano, the Province of Friesland, the Government of Navarre and the Region of Brittany - for the European Language Day, entitled "Language Diversity". During the event an innovative project by Marcus Vukoievic was also presented; he is a Frisian master's student in artificial intelligence and his project covers Ladin machine translation and its potential in the cultural, didactic and tourism-economic spheres.

Lastly, we recall '**Line A**' of the **NRRP - National Recovery and Resilience Plan** - which envisages pilot projects for the cultural, social and economic regeneration of villages at risk of being abandoned or already abandoned, through the implementation of a limited number of sample interventions (a total of 21 projects, one for each region and autonomous province). To this end, 20 million EUR have been earmarked for the economic and social revitalisation of villages that are uninhabited or characterised by an advanced process of decline or abandonment. The projects must provide for the establishment of new functions, infrastructures and services in the cultural, tourism, social or research fields.

In particular, the Autonomous Province of Trentino chose to nominate the municipality of Palù del Fersina - Palai En Bersntol as a pilot project area, in the light of its historical, identity, cultural and



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linguistic characteristics, also highlighted in Article 2 of the Region's Statute of Autonomy (Presidential Decree No. 670 of 31 August 1972). The related feasibility study, entitled '*The Strength of the Minority: Rebirth of a Germanic Village South of the Alps*', was approved by Resolution of the Provincial Council no. 356 of 15 March 2022; by Decree of the Ministry of Culture no. 453 of 7 June 2022, the project was approved, with the subsequent provision of funding in the amount of 20,000,000.00 euros. Finally, by Resolution of the Provincial Council no. 1912 of 28 October 2022, the "Outline of the collaboration agreement between the Autonomous Province of Trento and the Municipality of Palù del Fersina - Palai en Bersntol for the implementation of the project" was approved.

FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA

Friulian, Slovenian and Germanic languages

In the territory of Friuli Venezia Giulia, the Slovenian, Friulian as well as the Germanic linguistic minorities are present.

As a result of the adoption of law no. 482/1999 and of the subsequent law no. 38/2001 - referring specifically to the Slovene minority - a regulatory framework for the protection and promotion of "*multilingualism*" was outlined, on which the Region, *first and foremost*, is called upon to operate on the basis of its Statute of Autonomy. It should also be considered that two of the linguistic communities identified, the Slovene and Friulian ones, are specific to Friuli Venezia Giulia, while the Germanic communities are also present in other Italian regions close to the Alpine arc, as mentioned above.

THE FRIULIAN LANGUAGE COMMUNITY

The Friulian language community is present in 173 municipalities in Friuli Venezia Giulia: 122 in the former Province of Udine, 15 in the former Province of Gorizia and 36 in the former Province of Pordenone.

The Friulian language is also spoken in seven municipalities in Veneto included in the area of the metropolitan city of Venice: a circumstance that prompted the **two regions to enter into a cooperation agreement in 2020 for the protection and development of the linguistic and cultural heritage of the Friulian-speaking component of Veneto and the Veneto-speaking component of Friuli Venezia Giulia.**



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The regional law of 22 March 1996, no. 15 (*"Provisions for the protection and promotion of Friulian language and culture and establishment of the service for regional and minority languages"*), was the first legislative measure to recognise officially Friulian as a language, also identifying a specific language policy body, the OLF - *Osservatori pe lenghe e pe culture furlanis* (Observatory for the Friulian language and culture), replaced in 2005 by the ARLeF - *Agenzie regionâl pe lenghe furlane* (Regional Agency for the Friulian Language).

The subsequent legislative intervention in favour of the Friulian language was **Regional Law No. 29/2007** (*"Provisions for the protection, enhancement and promotion of the Friulian language"*), enacted to implement the Region's policies in favour of linguistic and cultural diversity in the territory under its jurisdiction.

Use of the Friulian minority language in public administration.

In implementation of Articles 9 and 15 of Law No 482/1999, the Region carries out actions aimed at ensuring that the oral and written use of the minority languages enjoying protection on the regional territory is effective in public administration offices.

Language desks

In particular, a yearly allocation is made in favour of the ARLeF - *Agenzie Regionâl pe Lenghe Furlane* (Regional Agency for the Friulian Language), in order to manage the 'Regional Linguistic Desk for the Friulian Language', which is made up by a central desk and four peripheral desks located throughout the region and catering for its entire territory.

The *Central Helpdesk* for the Friulian Language is based in Udine and is available not only to the ARLeF itself but also to public bodies that apply for its assistance. Furthermore, the service is also available for private individuals, provided that the request is consistent with the regional language policy lines.

The four *peripheral branches* operate in the Friulian-speaking area under the coordination of the *central desk* and have been divided as follows:

- a) Branch office for the Friulian language - Upper Friuli, based in Tolmezzo;
- b) Branch office for the Friulian language – Lower Friuli and Aquileia Plains, based in Aquileia;
- c) Branch office for the Friulian language - Western Friuli, based in San Vito al Tagliamento;
- d) Branch office for the Friulian language - Eastern Friuli, based in Gorizia.



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The main services offered by the above-mentioned language desks are the following: linguistic counselling and written translation of texts from Italian into Friulian with the ultimate aim of ensuring the use of the Friulian language in the institutions themselves; counselling on toponymy in the Friulian language for institutions that need to place road signs and signs in general and to guarantee full compliance with official toponyms; information and guidance for the public; simultaneous interpreting into Italian of speeches made in the Friulian language during the meetings of the Regional Council.

The *central desk* is also a valid operational support in the language policy and promotion activities carried out by the Region and the ARLeF., to implement the regulations for the protection of the Friulian language.

Article 25 of Regional Law no. 29/2007 also envisages that the Region adopts the **General Language Policy Plan for the Friulian language** (hereinafter **PGPL**), upon proposal of the ARLeF, as a rule every five years; the Plan is approved by decree of the President of the Region, after consultation with the competent Council Commission, in order to achieve the following objectives: guaranteeing the Friulian-speaking citizens the exercise of their linguistic rights; promoting the social use of the Friulian language and its development as a linguistic code suited to all situations of modern life; pursuing a unitary linguistic policy, through the coordination of actions planned by other public and private bodies and institutions; establishing the priorities for regional interventions in the education sector; establishing criteria and priorities for interventions in the media sector and for the support of associations.

The latest PGPL, covering the years 2021-2025, highlights among others the important role played by public administration in the daily lives of citizens.

In implementation of the provisions of the above-mentioned 2021-2025 PGPL, a meeting was organised at the end of 2022, attended by the regional department responsible for minority languages and the ARLeF, as organisers/coordinators, as well as the regional councillors and several central directors, or their delegates. In the course of the meeting, the possibility of a joint exercise of the relevant administrative functions was examined. **A contact person for the Friulian language was therefore identified within the various regional directorates**, who would be able to liaise with the regional structures responsible for the implementation of the protective laws and with whom they could have a direct interplay. The intention was to continue the effective collaboration and to favour an optimal and synergic management of the actions aimed at the implementation of the language policy measures within the region.



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Regional Law No 29/2007 also envisages that, in order to implement the above mentioned PGPL, 'the Region recognises a special service function to those entities that carry out a qualified and continuous activity in the regional territory for the promotion and dissemination of the Friulian language and that they have permanent facilities and an adequate organisation' (art. 24). In implementation of this provision, the regional Register of the Bodies of the Friulian Linguistic Minority was established, which is made up of two sections - a. project-based bodies; b. programme-based bodies - and which is located at the competent regional service.

Activities and actions for the protection, enhancement and promotion of the Friulian language.

Various actions and initiatives are promoted by private entities.

In this regard, Articles 23 and 24 of the above mentioned Regional Law No. 29/2007 provide for specific funding for the following entities:

- *Informazione Friulana società cooperativa* and *Radio Spazio 103 s.r.l.* (art. 23), for the support of radio broadcasting in the Friulian language;
- *registered organisations* (Art. 24(8)), for the support of activities and initiatives promoted and carried out by themselves;
- *Societât Filologjiche Furlane - Società Filologica Friulana G.I. Ascoli* (art. 24, par. 9), to which "the Region recognises a role of primary importance" for the pursuit of its institutional aims.

Moreover under the same regulations, from 2022 onwards the Region automatically allocates specific funding to the ARLeF, which in turn is authorised to make grants to the above-mentioned entities, in accordance with the procedures set out in the relevant regulations.

Cultural environment and projects

As from 2019, the Region also allocates specific resources to the "*Teatri Stabil Furlan - Teatro Stabile Friulano*" for the pursuit of its institutional aims. By means of this funding, the intention is to promote and enhance Friulian culture and language, also within the framework of theatrical activities. Actually, thanks to these funds, the above-mentioned body, in addition to realising its own productions of plays, also organises the annual '*Stagione Teatrale Friulana*' and other important cultural projects.

Means of communication in minority languages.



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As regards the media, Article 23 of the 2007 regional law, entitled '*Interventions in the media sector*', envisages the above mentioned specific funding in favour of two companies, among others: '*Informazione Friulana società cooperativa di Udine*' and '*Radio Spazio 103 s.r.l. di Udine*'. These are two historical entities that for many years have continuously guaranteed radio broadcasting in the Friulian language, also performing a substitute activity for the public service (e.g. radio news bulletins). In particular, we owe to these entities the implementation in due course of the use of the Friulian language in the programming schedules, as well as in productions in written form, e.g. *web pages* and *social media*.

Publishing projects

In addition to the activities carried out by the above-mentioned radio stations, the "*Patrie dal Friûl*" *culture club* and the *Societât Sientifiche e Tecnologiche Furlane*, both of which are registered in the *regional register of the bodies of the Friulian linguistic minority*, are also worth mentioning: the former publishes the monthly information periodical entirely written in Friulian "*La Patrie dal Friûl*"; the latter is dedicated to the popularisation of science through the periodicals "*Il Gjornâl Furlan des Siencis / Friulian Journal of Science*" (a bilingual scientific journal published since 2002, included in the ANVUR list of scientific journals assessable for the National Scientific Qualification, for Areas 10 and 13) and "*Cîl & Tiera*" (a popularising scientific journal in Friulian).

Regional Advisory Commission for the Friulian Linguistic Minority.

Furthermore, Article 30 *bis* of Regional Law 29/2007, introduced by the most recent Regional Law No. 13/2021 provides for the establishment of the '***Regional Advisory Commission for the Friulian Linguistic Minority***'.

It is a commission set up within the regional headquarters responsible for minority languages, which is intended to act as a general advisory body, putting forward proposals and evaluation of issues and problems relating to the Friulian linguistic minority. This collegial body is established by decree of the President of the Region and remains in office for the duration of the legislature.

Third Regional Review and Proposal Conference on the implementation of Regional Law No 29 of 18 December 2007

Finally, in implementation of Article 30, paragraph 1 of the above mentioned Law No. 29/2007, the President of the Regional Council convenes a 'verification and proposal' conference to



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monitor the effective implementation of the law itself; he does so at least once every five years and in any case within the first twenty-four months from the beginning of each new legislature

The "*Third Regional Conference for the Verification and Proposal on the Implementation of Regional Law no. 29 of 18 December 2007 (Rules for the Protection, Enhancement and Promotion of the Friulian Language)*" was due in May 2020 but, in view of the COVID-19 epidemiological emergency, it was held the following year, in a mixed format. Specifically, the conference was held on 5 November 2021 in Udine, at the 'A. Comelli' Regional Auditorium, and the event was broadcast on the Regional Council's *web TV*, as well as on the ARLeF's *Facebook* social channel and *YouTube* channel.

The following took part in the proceedings: members of the Regional Council and Government, representatives of the relevant regional offices and services, members of the institutional bodies of ARLeF and the Assembly of the Friulian Linguistic Community, representatives of local authorities, the University of Udine, educational institutions, associations in the area, the media, as well as users and interested citizens.

The Third Conference was an important milestone for the Friulian community, allowing it to take stock of the actions implemented in recent years and to define the areas of strategies to be adopted in the future.

The above mentioned Regional Language Policy Plan 2021-2025 (PGPL) was also presented at the event. As already mentioned, the PGPL is an instrument with which the region dictates future strategies for language development.

The macro-objectives identified by the PGPL are as follows: favouring the re-establishment of the intergenerational transmission of the Friulian language; improving the qualitative level of skills, including written ones; increasing the social use of the language.

The language planning measures which were identified are based on studies and proposals developed in other European contexts, according to which the revitalisation of the minority language requires coordinated action on three particular aspects:

- acting on the language skills of those who already speak Friulian;
- creating more opportunities for use;
- increasing the desire of speakers with respect to language use.

The conference proceedings, edited by ARLeF and written in both Italian and Friulian, are available in hard copy and in electronic format at the following *link*: www.consiglio.regione.fvg.it/cms/pagine/4/pubblicazioni/Comunita-linguistiche-regionali.



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THE GERMAN LANGUAGE MINORITY

In Friuli Venezia Giulia, the German-speaking minority is present in the territory of the municipalities of Malborghetto-Valbruna, Tarvisio, Pontebba, Sappada, Sauris and in the Timau district of the municipality of Paluzza.

The process of recognition of the indigenous German-speaking communities in the region, which had already begun with Regional Law No. 4/1999, was completed in 2009 with the approval of **Regional Law No. 20 of 20 November 2009 ("Rules for the protection and promotion of the German-speaking minorities in Friuli Venezia Giulia")**, the first comprehensive legislative text of protection, aimed at recognising and enhancing also the German-speaking minority as part of the historical-cultural, linguistic and human heritage of the region.

The communities of Sappada, Sauris and in particular Timau use an archaic language similar to that spoken in other German-speaking territories in northern Italy, with which **cultural and linguistic relations and exchanges take place**, thanks also to the **'Unitary Committee of Historical Germanic Linguistic Islands in Italy' established in Luserna in May 2002**.

In the territories of the Val Canale, i.e. in the present municipalities of Tarvisio, Malborghetto-Valbruna and Pontebba, German is spoken in the Carinthian variety.

Use of the German minority language in public administration.

In implementation of Articles 9 and 15 of Law No. 482/1999 and Article 6 of Regional Law No. 20/2009, the Region implements measures aimed at making the oral and written use of the German language effective in relations with the Public Administration.

In particular, in addition to the activation of language desks in the local public administrations in the territory where this minority is located, the **'Regional Language Desk for German'** was established in 2019, aimed at protecting and coordinating the use of this minority language in public offices.

The above mentioned regional desk is committed to safeguarding the right of German-speaking language communities to use their own language, as well as to fostering international and cross-border relations with German-speaking countries and institutions that also have a German culture.



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During the last two years, the facility also organised a series of meetings with local language desks in order to coordinate and share the activities and tools available for translating texts and interpreting into German.

Support for initiatives to promote and protect the German language minority and its media.

Pursuant to Article 17(1) of Regional Law No. 20/2009, the region yearly approves a call for proposals for the funding of initiatives aimed at the dissemination and knowledge of the minority language.

These are activities which are promoted and carried out by bodies and organisations representing German-speaking minorities recognised under Article 14 of the 2009 Regional Law. The main initiatives include: the organisation of events, shows and cultural events; renovation of historical archives, libraries and museums; and the printing of books and information material. Funded initiatives also include **cultural collaboration and cooperation activities with institutions in other European countries where the German language is historically present, or in domestic and foreign territories where German or other language minorities are present.**

Regional Commission for the German-speaking Minorities of Friuli Venezia Giulia.

Article 15 of Regional Law No. 20/2009 established the '*Regional Commission for the German-speaking minorities of Friuli Venezia Giulia*', which has advisory, proposal and evaluation tasks for the initiatives presented and implemented for the purposes of this law. At the Commission's meetings, the use of the German language is ensured thanks to the interpreting service provided by the translators of the above mentioned Regional Language Desk.

First Regional Conference on the Protection of German-speaking Minorities in Friuli Venezia Giulia.

Article 17 *bis* of the Protection Act of 2009, introduced by Regional Law No. 20/2019, envisages that the President of the Regional Council shall convene the '*Regional Conference on the Protection of Friuli Venezia Giulia's German-speaking Minorities*' at least once every five years, and in any event within the first twenty-four months from the beginning of the legislature.



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The establishment of such a conference was an important step towards overcoming the previously existing disparity between the different regional minorities; actually, until 2019 the 'Regional Language Conference' existed only for the Friulian and Slovenian minorities.

The event was due in May 2020 but, in view of the epidemiological emergency from COVID-19, the '*First Regional Conference on the Protection of Friuli Venezia Giulia's German-speaking Minorities*' was held in Sappada, in a mixed format, on 29 October 2021.

As was the case for the regional conferences planned for the Friulian and Slovene linguistic minorities, the main purpose is to verify the status of the implementation of the measures provided for by the regional protection law, gathering proposals for adaptation to the needs that have emerged and for the definition of any new guidelines.

A number of professors from the University of Trento and also from universities in Austria and Germany, namely the Universities of Augsburg, Regensburg, Klagenfurt and Vienna, who, for various reasons, have focused their studies and research on the German-speaking islands of the Italian Alpine arc, were called upon to deal with the various issues affecting German-speaking regional communities.

The Conference Proceedings, edited by the University of Udine, and written in both Italian and German, are available both in hard copy and in electronic format at the following *link*:

<https://www.consiglio.regione.fvg.it/cms/pagine/4/pubblicazioni/Comunita-linguistiche-regionali>.

THE SLOVENIAN LINGUISTIC MINORITY

Law no. 38 of 23 February 2001 ('*Rules for the protection of the Slovene linguistic minority of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region*') introduced new protective legislation specifically aimed at the Slovene minority.

This is a wide-ranging piece of legislation that, for the first time, recognises *ex lege* the presence of the Slovene community in Friuli Venezia Giulia, not only in the provinces of Trieste and Gorizia, which are already protected by international agreements (referred to in Article 28 of the law), but also in the province of Udine.

Article 12 of this law also explicitly recognises the 'Institute for Slovene Education in San Pietro al Natisone' as a bilingual Slovene-Italian state school.



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Finally, Article 21 envisages specific funding for the protection of the social, economic and environmental interests of the Canal del Ferro, Val Canale, Valli del Torre and Valli del Natisone municipalities.

It is also worth pointing out that the 2001 Protection Law does not confine itself to a generic reference to the general principles of European bodies - as Law No. 482/1999 does - but it specifies that **the protection measures envisaged therein take inspiration both from the 'Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities' and from the 'European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages' (Art. 2).**

The approval of the 2001 Protection Act, together with **Regional Law no. 26/2007 'Regional regulations for the protection of the Slovene linguistic minority'**, was the basis for the establishment of several important advisory bodies, including the **Regional Advisory Commission for the Slovene Linguistic Minority and the Joint Institutional Committee for the problems of the Slovene minority (under Article 3 of the same law).**

The delimitation of the territory of Friuli Venezia Giulia where the Slovene minority is traditionally present is entrusted to the above mentioned Joint Institutional Committee. As a result, the list of the municipalities of Friuli Venezia Giulia, in which the measures for the protection of the minority in question are applied, was approved with the decree of the President of the Republic of 12 September 2007, in accordance with the provisions of art. 4 of law no. 38/2001.

Among the many provisions, Article 7 is worth mentioning, which, similarly to what was established in Law no. 482/1999 for all recognised linguistic minorities, protects the right of citizens belonging to the Slovene minority to their Slovene name and surname, also providing the procedures for the restoration of the surname, in case it had been previously switched to the Italian form; the same provision also states the right of institutes, organisations, associations and companies to the name, emblems and insignia in the Slovene language.

Article 10 provides for the use of the Slovene language, in addition to Italian, also in public signs and toponymy.

Particularly significant is also Article 23 of this law, through which specific additions are made to Law No. 482/1999 on the penal law protection of linguistic minorities, through the provision of sanctions aimed at preventing and repressing phenomena of intolerance and violence against members of any historical linguistic minority.



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The 2001 protection law intervenes not only in the three fundamental sectors already described in connection with law no. 482/1999, that is, in the field of educational institutions, the use of the language in the Public Administration and the *mass media*, but also with reference to cultural, artistic, sports, recreational, scientific, educational, informative and editorial activities dedicated to the Slovene minority, in particular **by providing for their support with a specific annual funding to the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia (as provided for in Article 16).**

Actions to protect the historical and artistic heritage of this minority are also envisaged; in this regard, special mention should be made of Article 19, which expressly provides for the restitution of property and real estate, which had already been owned by the Slovene minority, for the activities of cultural and scientific institutions.

As mentioned above, norms for the protection of the Slovene linguistic minority have also been introduced at regional level: the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia regulated the protection of the Slovene linguistic minority with the **Regional Law no. 26 of 16 November 2007 ("Regional norms for the protection of the Slovene linguistic minority")**, similarly to what was done for the protection of the Friulian minority with the above-mentioned Regional Law no. 29/2007.

As explicitly stated in art. 1, par. 2 of this Law, first and foremost the Region aimed at implementing the general principles connected to the protection of linguistic minorities, within its sphere of competence; more specifically, they are enshrined in the following instruments: art. 6 of the Constitution; art. 3 of the Regional Statute; Universal Declaration of Human Rights, done by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 10 December 1948; Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms ratified by law No. 848 of 4 August 1955 (*"Ratification and Execution of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms signed in Rome on 4 November 1950 and of the Additional Protocol to the Convention signed in Paris on 20 March 1952"*); the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities of the Council of Europe, ratified by Law No. 302 of 28 August 1997 (*"Ratification and Execution of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, done at Strasbourg on 1 February 1995"*); the Instrument of the Central European Initiative for the Protection of Minority Rights, signed in Budapest on 15 November 1994 ; the documents of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), signed by Italy on



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the protection of languages and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, done in Strasbourg on 5 November 1992.

The provisions of the regional law *also 'supplement and implement the relevant state legislation'* (Art. 1, paragraph 3, Law No. 26/2007).

Use of Slovenian in Public Administration.

Article 8 of Law no. 38/2001 specifically recognises the right to the use of Slovene in relations with local administrative and judicial authorities, as well as with the concessionaires of services of public interest in the areas of the territory where the Slovene minority is settled. The same right was taken up and implemented by regional law no. 26/2007.

As already mentioned, the territory of the Slovene minority in Italy includes the border area with the neighbouring Republic of Slovenia, for a total of 32 municipalities identified by the Presidential Decree of 12 September 2007, in which the measures for the protection of the Slovene minority are applied. This list includes 7 municipalities which according to the Statute are considered "bilingual municipalities", since the administrative activity is carried out both in Italian and Slovene and the administrative acts are also drafted in Slovene. In these municipalities, the right to the use of Slovene is guaranteed also during the meetings of the municipal councils, with the presence of an interpreter who provides simultaneous translation of the mayor's and councillors' speeches. The same service is also ensured during the meetings of the Gorizia City Council and the Friuli Venezia Giulia Regional Council.

It should be noted that, in addition to Slovenian, simultaneous translation is also provided in Friulian and, on request, in German.

Central Office for the Slovene Language and Network for the Slovene Language in the Friuli Venezia Giulia Public Administration

In order to implement the legal provisions concerning the use of Slovene in the public administration, in accordance with the provisions of art. 9, of law no. 482/1999, and the above mentioned art. 8, of law no. 38/2001, the Region established **the Central Office for the Slovene Language**.

This organization performs the **functions of managing and coordinating the activities concerning the use of Slovene in the public administration and provides for the publication of**



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specific calls for the implementation of projects aimed at promoting the use of the Slovene language in the administration.

In particular, the Office provides the Regional Administration with translation and interpreting services (simultaneous, consecutive and chuchotage), as well as linguistic counseling and editing for the Italian and Slovenian languages. In this regard, the significant increase in requests for translation services by all the Directorates of the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia over the last few years should be noted, as **evidence of the considerable attention paid by the Regional Administration to the use of Slovene in the Public Administration.**

A further step towards the full realisation of the principles of protection is the establishment of the **Network for the Slovene Language in the Public Administration of Friuli Venezia Giulia, which was followed by the stipulation of special three-year Conventions between the participating public bodies and the Central Office for the Slovene Language.** Currently, the Agreements have been signed by twenty-nine municipalities in the provinces of Trieste, Gorizia and Udine, as well as by the Health Authorities (ASUGI and ASUFC), the Chamber of Commerce, the Regional Agency for Environmental Protection (ARPA) and the FVG Regional School Office. The 'Giuseppe Tartini' Conservatory of Music in Trieste has also expressed its willingness to join in.

The activities of the Network are coordinated at the administrative level by the above mentioned Central Office for the Slovene Language, which is responsible for the provision of state subsidies for Slovene language desk activities.

On the other hand, the language desks spread throughout the territory autonomously provide translations related to ordinary institutional activities and interpreting activities, in order to enable the members of the elected assemblies and bodies with a collegial structure to use the Slovene language in their activities. To this end, the member organisations may hire staff or call in external professionals on the basis of long-term contracts.

As part of the coordination of translation activities carried out at the network members' language desks and offices, the Central Office also provides training courses for translators and desk officers and assistance in solving language queries.

Interpretation services are also offered, by its own specialised personnel, at the request of the organisations that are part of the Network for the Slovene Language in the FVG Public Administration, **at events or institutional meetings of a cross-border nature.**



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The aim of the Office is also to standardise terminology, improve the quality of texts which have been translated and produced in the public administration and facilitate the work of translators and desk officers. To this end, three main areas of activity have been identified: the first is devoted to terminology 'standardisation', the second to language standardisation, and the third area of activity is aimed at harmonising the work of translators through the use of technology. With reference to this last area, the Office has made available several licences of a well-known computer-aided translation software to the Network's members, in order to enable translators to share text and terminology databases on a *server*; these databases are managed in the *background* by the Office itself.

All the results of the above-mentioned activities are regularly published on the website www.jeziknaklik.it, developed in cooperation with SLORI, the Slovene Research Institute; the content of the site is also available in Italian.

Over the last few months, the Central Office has also undertaken toponymy research work aimed at standardising official toponymic names in the Slovenian language at a regional level. In addition, in August 2023, the second edition of "*La normativa di tutela degli Sloveni in Italia / Predpisi o varstvu Slovencev v Italiji*" was published- a bilingual collection of legal acts referring to the protection of the Slovene linguistic minority.

In addition, several collaborations of the Central Office with various institutions in the area are worth mentioning. In particular, the collaboration with the Department of Legal, Language, Interpretation and Translation Sciences of the University of Trieste and with the Slovene Research Institute 'SLORI' gave rise to the idea of activating an **advanced course in legal translation between Italian and Slovene, financed by the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia starting from the academic year 2022/2023**, aimed at training new translators and desk officers to be employed in the Public Administration.

The exchanges initiated with the Coastal Self-Governing Community of Italian Nationality in Slovenia and the Italian Community of the Istrian Region in Croatia are also noteworthy; the latter institutions have expressed strong interest in the activities of the Central Office, with the idea of replicating its model across the border.



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Support for initiatives to promote and protect the Slovene linguistic minority and its media.

In implementation of Article 16 of Law No 38/2001, Regional Law No 26/2007 regulates the funding for the activities of the bodies and organisations of the Slovene linguistic minority (in Article 18) and its Article 5 provides for the establishment of the Regional Register of the Organisations of the Slovene Linguistic Minority at the Central Directorate responsible for minority languages.

In particular, it is envisaged to finance the activities and initiatives promoted by the bodies and organisations of the Slovene linguistic minority that the Region recognises as being of pre-eminent relevance and interest for the minority itself; in particular, the following sectors are concerned: humanistic, literary and scientific culture; scientific and humanistic field of studies and research, cinema related arts, museum activities and preservation of the historical heritage; theatre and entertainment sector, in particular the organisation of theatre seasons, reviews of cultural events and festivals; cultural, artistic, recreational and sports activities; education and extracurricular training of Slovene-speaking minors.

Among the identified sectors there is also the publishing sector. In this regard, the Region supports the organisations that continuously and steadily carry out information and publishing initiatives in the Slovene language of pre-eminent interest for the minority itself. In particular, the following deserve a special attention: PR.A.E. Promozione attività editoriale s.r.l. from Trieste, which publishes the daily *Primorski dnevnik*; the Società cooperativa a r.l. *Goriška Mohorjeva* of Gorizia, which publishes the weekly *Novi glas* and the monthly magazine for school-age children *Pastirček*, as well as printing books; the Società cooperativa a r.l. *Novi Matajur* of Cividale del Friuli (UD), which publishes the weekly *Novi Matajur* and the monthly magazine for school-age children *Galeb*; the Società cooperativa s. r.l. *Mladika* of Trieste, which publishes the monthly *Mladika* as well as printing books; Società cooperativa a r.l. *Most of* Cividale del Friuli (UD), which publishes the fortnightly *Dom*; *l'Editoriale Stampa Triestina* s.r.l. of Trieste, which is devoted to the printing of books.

The Region also supports minor bodies and organisations of the Slovene minority registered in the Register of Organisations of the Slovene Minority, which mainly organise educational activities and services, such as the operation of after-school and summer centres in the Slovene language and promote the development of cultural exchanges and youth activities, including



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cross-border ones. Similarly, initiatives of particular relevance aimed at the enhancement of the language and historical and cultural heritage of the Slovene minority are financed.

The above mentioned regional law also provides for special funding for interventions aimed at the social, economic and environmental development of the territories of the municipalities belonging to the territorial areas of the Natisone, Torre, Canal del Ferro and Val Canale Valleys (art. 20), for initiatives carried out by public educational institutions in order to support the development of the educational and didactic offer in schools of all levels located in the territory of the Slovene linguistic minority (art. 21) and for interventions in favour of the Resian and the linguistic varieties of the Natisone, Torre, Canal Ferro and Val Canale Valleys (art. 22).

Regional Advisory Commission for the Slovene Language Minority.

Article 8 of Regional Law no. 26/2007 provides for the establishment of the '**Regional Advisory Commission for the Slovene linguistic minority**', within the Central Directorate in charge of minority languages; the Commission is a general advisory body on all questions and issues relating to the Slovene linguistic minority. It is a collegial body established by decree of the President of the Region and it remains in office for the duration of the legislature. At the meetings of the Commission the use of the Slovene language is guaranteed thanks to the interpreting service provided by the translators of the above-mentioned Central Office for the Slovene Language at the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia.

This Advisory Commission is made up by:

- a) the competent regional councillor, or his delegate, acting as chairman;
- b) six members, two for each of the former provinces of Trieste, Gorizia and Udine, designated by the reference organisations of the Slovene linguistic minority referred to in Article 6;
- c) three members, one for each of the former provinces of Trieste, Gorizia and Udine, elected by the assembly of the Slovene-speaking elected members in the local authorities referred to in Article 3, paragraph 2, letter c) of Law no. 38/2001, convened in advance for this purpose by the President of the Regional Council;
- d) a member of the Regional School Commission for Slovene-language education referred to in Article 13 of Law no. 38/2001, delegated by the Commission;
- (d bis) the President of the Assembly of the Slovene linguistic community referred to in Article 21 of the Regional Law No. 26 of 12 December 2014 (*Reorganisation of the Region-*



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Local Authorities system in Friuli Venezia Giulia. System of inter-municipal territorial unions and reallocation of administrative functions), if established.

Third Regional Conference on the Protection of the Slovenian Language Minority.

Article 10 of Regional Law no. 26/2007 provides for the convening of the **Regional Conference on the Protection of the Slovene Linguistic Minority**, at least once every five years, in order to verify the state of implementation of the actions provided for by the law itself and to collect proposals for their adaptation to the needs that have emerged as well as to define new guidelines.

This conference is an opportunity of participation and exchange among the actors and bodies involved in dealing with the problems of the sector.

The "Third Regional Conference on the Protection of the Slovene Language Minority" was due in May 2020, but in view of the epidemiological emergency from COVID-19, it was held the following year, on 12 and 19 November 2021 in Trieste. The event was an opportunity for a concrete verification of the implementation of Regional Law no. 26/2007, and the results that emerged made it possible for the Regional Council to define guidelines for future governmental measures. More specifically, the Third Regional Conference dealt with the following topics: "1. the assessment of the implementation of the safeguarding law: the difficulties encountered and any shortcomings"; "2. multilingual education in the Val Canale: myth or real scenario?"; "3. the verification of the degree of implementation of the provisions under art. 10 of Law 38/2001 on public signs and toponymy"; "4. the Central Office for the Slovene language at the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia: a summary of the work done and future challenges"; "5. a model of regional language policy for the Slovene language: theoretical premises, objectives, spheres of intervention and institutional framework".

The proceedings of the Conference are available in Italian and Slovenian in both hard copy and electronic format at the following link:

<https://www.consiglio.regione.fvg.it/cms/pagine/4/pubblicazioni/Comunita-linguistiche-regionali>.

Permanent institutional table on issues concerning the Slovene-speaking minority in Italy.

Finally, it is important to point out the activity of the **"Permanent Institutional Table on issues concerning the Slovene-speaking minority in Italy"**; the Table was established by decree of the



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Minister of the Interior on 4 July 2012 for the in-depth study of issues concerning the application of Law no. 38/2001, and, in general, for all issues concerning the protection of this minority.

Over the years, the Table has achieved positive results for the Slovene community such as, for example, the complex and important restitution of the *Narodni Dom* Building, which had been used by the University of Trieste for many years.

Representatives of the Joint Institutional Committee for the Slovene Minority and of the two largest Slovene associations, the Slovene Cultural Economic Union and the Confederation of Slovene Organisations take part in the meetings of the Table as permanent members. Managers and experts are also invited, from time to time, to participate in the work of the Table according to the specific issues dealt with. **The activities are carried out by the Civil Liberties and Immigration Department - Central Directorate for Civil Rights, Citizenship and Minorities of the Ministry of the Interior**, and the meetings are held both in Trieste and Rome.

The last meeting was held in Rome on 15 November 2023 and it made it possible to address and solve a number of issues put forward by the Slovenian representative associations.

In particular, the following issues, among those that were discussed, deserve special attention

- the inclusion of diacritical characters in administrative documents, for the correct transcription of the names and surnames of members of the Slovene minority. As far as this aspect is concerned and with reference to what was pointed out by the National Federal Committee of Linguistic Minorities of Italy - CONFEMILI (at p. 13 of the contribution of the above mentioned Committee, attached to the present Report at the request of the Committee itself), it is noted that the issue concerning the inclusion of diacritical signs in passports was promptly solved and therefore, to date, all the typical letters of the Slovenian alphabet are correctly used in the issuance of passports;

- the extension of the Convention stipulated between the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and the FVG Region for the radio and television broadcasting in the Slovene language, the strengthening of radio signals and the broadcasting of TV and radio programmes in the Slovene language through the new and modern ways of use (digital platforms RAIPLAY and RAIPLAYSOUND)

- education, and in particular the identification at the competent Ministry of a SINGLE POINT-OF-CONTACT, at central level, to deal with all the requests coming from the Slovene community, as well as the recognition of a real autonomy and "specificity" of the School Office provided for in



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art. 13, paragraph 1, law no. 38/2001 to deal with affairs concerning education in the Slovene language.

In this regard - and also in reply to what was indicated on page 12 of the contribution of the Institutional Joint Committee for the problems of the Slovene linguistic minority, also attached at the Committee's request - it should be noted that both requests were granted, as also acknowledged by a note, dated 23 January 2024, from the Confederation of Slovene Organisations in which it is acknowledged that, for the first time, the Ministry of Education and Merit formally addressed a communication directly to the above mentioned special Slovene-language Office.

- the parliamentary representation of the Slovene minority, which was also the subject of mention by the above-mentioned Joint Institutional Committee (p. 20 of its contribution). In this regard, already at the meeting of the Table of 15 November 2023 it was stated that the ad hoc Commission chaired by ISTAT, competent for the redetermination of single- and multi-nominal constituencies for political elections (later adopted by Legislative Decree 177/2020) took into account, already at that meeting, the access of the Slovene minority to the constituencies. However, the fragmentation of the territorial presence of the Slovene minority, the small number of Slovene-speaking voters, and the huge size of the constituencies prevented a sure result of the Slovene minority's access to parliament. In any case, the minority in question enjoys its own representation, albeit depending on the readiness to cooperate of the political grouping that nominated a Slovene-speaking member of parliament.

In addition to the above, a basic principle of the Italian Constitution is that all votes must be equal (Article 48 of the Constitution); establishing very small single-member constituencies to guarantee the election of a member of a linguistic minority could lead to an unconstitutional inequality between this minority and the rest of the population (who vote in very large constituencies), whose vote would end up having less influence. It should also be considered that in the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region, the Slovenian community is present to a small extent compared to the total population, not making up a numerically predominant component, unlike the French-speaking minority in Valle d'Aosta and the German-speaking minority in the Autonomous Province of Bolzano.



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ABRUZZO

Arbëreshe language

In Abruzzo, in the territory of Pescara and specifically in the municipality of Rosciano, there are minorities of Greek-Byzantine culture; in particular, the **Arbëreshe linguistic minority, part of the Albanian macro-language**.

In order to protect this minority, Regional Law No. 23 of 5 August 2020 was issued: '*Protection of the Arbëreshe linguistic minority of Villa Badessa, a hamlet of the municipality of Rosciano (PE) and extraordinary contribution in support of the Romanian Orthodox Diocese of Italy*', which promoted measures to enhance the *Arbëreshe* ethnic-linguistic community as a characteristic element of Abruzzo culture, in implementation of the recognition made by the Province of Pescara.

Among its purposes, the above mentioned regional law lists the preservation, recovery and development of the cultural identity of the ethnic-linguistic community of *Arbëreshe* origin, promoting all initiatives and incentives for the population to remain in their places of origin and to deepen the study of their identity.

Furthermore, the following initiatives are foreseen: protection, recovery, preservation and valorisation of historical, artistic, cultural, liturgical and religious testimonies characteristic of the *Arbëreshe* community; the development of historical and linguistic research, the promotion of local culture courses and didactic activities, the publication and dissemination of studies, research and documents the valorisation of the language and the recovery of the toponymy; information on issues concerning the *Arbëreshe* community; learning the Albanian language; the creation of local museums, study centres and service cooperatives aimed at this specific activity; the organisation of events aimed at the valorisation of customs, traditions and customs of the community.

In addition, yearly contributions are granted to the municipality of Rosciano, the amount of which is established by budgetary law.

Please note that, during the year 2023, the Municipality of Rosciano participated in the call for tenders of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers - Department for Regional Affairs and Autonomies, intended for State, territorial and local Administrations for the funding of projects aimed at the valorisation of languages and cultures protected by the law no. 482/1999, by submitting the project named 'Badhesa', which provides for the following lines of activity:



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language desk; training; toponymy; cultural activities. By the Decree of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of 25 October 2023, the project was awarded the sum of 40,886.13 euros.

MARCHE

Arbëreshe language

In the Marche region, particularly in the province of Macerata, there is the presence of a substantial Albanian community of recent immigration, particularly since the end of the 1990s. It is mainly present in the municipalities of Macerata, Recanati, Civitanova Marche, San Severino Marche, Porto Recanati, Tolentino, Matelica, Potenza Picena and Castelraimondo.

Furthermore, in the province of Macerata there the ILIRIA - Albanian Association for Culture, Art and Sport, exists. The Association is based in Macerata, at 55 Via G. Bosco and it is very active in the city's cultural and social context.

MOLISE

Arbëreshe and Croatian languages

The Molise territory includes the Croatian linguistic minority, particularly in the municipalities of Acquaviva Collecroce, Montemitro, Tavenna and San Felice del Molise, and the *Arbëreshe* linguistic minority, in the municipalities of Campomarino, Montecilfone, Portocannone and Ururi.

In compliance with Article 8 of its Statute and with **Regional Law No. 15 of 14 May 1997 'Protection and enhancement of the cultural heritage of linguistic minorities in Molise'**, the **Molise** Region promotes the protection and enhancement of the historical, artistic, cultural and architectural heritage, with particular attention to the identities and traditions of local communities and to the cultural heritage of linguistic minorities historically present in the regional territory, favouring the transmission of their languages and cultures of origin to new generations.

Each year, the above-mentioned municipalities identify the lead partner entitled to submit projects to compete for the allocation of funds under Articles 9 and 15 of Law No. 482 of 15 December 1999.

In particular, the projects envisage the activation of language desks and language training activities that foster greater participation of citizens of Albanian and Croatian origin in civil and



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social life and ensure the preservation of the linguistic and cultural heritage for the new generations, as well as the dissemination of an image of the common territory that is conducive to the cultural and tourist promotion of the characteristic places of the above mentioned municipalities.

With reference to the procedure for the allocation of funds under Articles 9 and 15 of Law No. 482 of 15 December 1999, **for the financial year 2023, the Region submitted the following projects to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers – Department of Regional Affairs and Autonomies:**

- "Aggregate project - Molise *Arbëreshe* area - 2023" submitted by the lead municipality of Montecilfone, concerning the activation of the language desk, the implementation of language training and cultural activities for the benefit of the municipalities of Montecilfone, Campomarino, Portocannone and Ururi;
- Project "*Naš Jezik 2023*" of the Croatian minority, presented in aggregate form by the lead municipality of Acquaviva Collecroce, concerning the activation of the language desk, the implementation of language training, toponymy and cultural activities for the benefit of the municipalities of San Felice del Molise, Acquaviva Collecroce, Tavenna and Montemitro.

A good practice worth mentioning is the partner participation of the Molise Region in the **European cooperation project named "TAKE IT SLOW"; the Region** drafted and implemented the 'Walk of the Seven Churches', inspired by the values of slow and sustainable tourism, to enhance the precious heritage - both material and immaterial - that characterises and represents the uniqueness of the Croatian-Molise countries, fully implemented with the support of the entire local community.

At the conclusion of the project activities, a three-day "Study Visit" was organised, with events and activities in the Croatian-Molisan territories, highlighting the "Seven Churches Walk" both locally and transnationally, hosting the Italian and Croatian project partners.

CAMPANIA

Arbëreshe language

Province of Avellino (Municipality of Greci).

The municipality of Greci is home to the only Albanian-speaking community in Campania. The community entertains constant relations with the Republic of Albania and it dates back to 1400,



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but it witnessed an exodus from Albania in the 1990s. There are courses in the spoken and written *Arbëreshe* language, with a final exam taken on the occasion of the lower secondary school diploma examination.

Given the high percentage of Albanian speakers, public office workers are familiar with the minority language. Bilingual signs are present in the toponymy.

After the pandemic, the Municipality of Greci submitted an important project, financed with funds from Law No. 482/99, involving the Superintendency of Architectural, Environmental and Artistic Heritage (demo-ethno-anthropological sector), as well as the Chairs of Cultural Anthropology and Cultural Heritage Anthropology at the University of Salerno; the project aimed at a total and in-depth revaluation of the historic cultural heritage of the *Arbëreshe* community.

Over the years, the Campania region has contributed to the preservation of cultural and linguistic heritage, thanks to the funding provided by **Regional Law no. 14 of 20 December 2004**.

The important Palazzo Lusi, home of PLEAG - Palazzo Lusi Esposizione Archeologica Greci, was built thanks to the above mentioned funding, as were numerous publications on the subject, which were also produced in cooperation with the Federico II University of Naples, among which the Atlas of the Albanian Language is worth mentioning.

BASILICATA/LUCANIA

Arbëreshe language

There are Arbëreshe minorities in the province of Potenza, particularly in the municipalities of Barile, Brindisi di Montagna, Ginestra, Maschito, San Costantino Albanese and San Paolo Albanese.

Municipality of San Paolo Albanese (PZ)

The use of the *Arbëreshe* language by municipal personnel is guaranteed and the teaching of this minority language is activated. **The Antenna Sud and Telenorba television networks, and in particular RAI 3 Basilicata, grant attention to the events of the Arbëreshe community.** Moreover, the toponymy is both in Italian and in the minority language.

Municipality of San Costantino Albanese (PZ)



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Most of the citizens speak the *Arbëreshe language* and courses in this minority language have been activated for primary school. There are folk singing and music activities and the toponymy is bilingual. The Basilicata Region has activated the 'Il Borgo dei Suoni' (The Village of Sounds) project, which includes the organisation of a festival and the creation of a sound archive for the preservation of songs and poems.

In addition, there is the Museum of *Arbëreshe Culture*, located in the Pollino Park, pivotal point and driving force behind the dissemination of *Arbëreshe culture*.

Municipality of Maschito (PZ)

Arbëreshe folk festivals are held and the toponymy is in Italian and in the minority language.

Municipality of Ginestra (PZ)

In the offices of the territory, the use of the *Arbëreshe* language by the staff is guaranteed.

The toponymy was updated by the municipality thanks to funds provided for by Law No. 482/99 and it is both in Italian and in the minority language. Moreover, a food and wine itinerary linked to the use of medicinal herbs (*Liakre et Bare*) of the *Arbëreshe* tradition has been financed; there is an Ethnobotanical Garden and a museum, and *Arbëreshe* folk events are organised in the area.

With regard to cooperation initiatives within the framework of European Union programmes, the 'We are *Arbëreshe*' project is worth mentioning – it was financed by the O.P. - European Regional Development Fund of Basilicata 2014-2020.

The 'Sportello linguistico *Arbëreshe* della Basilicata' project (Linguistic *Arbëreshe* Helpdesk of Basilicata) is also worth mentioning; its aim is again promoting and disseminating the region's *Arbëreshe* language, culture and customs.

Good practices include the following objectives: recovery, valorisation and dissemination of Basilicata's peculiarities of Albanian; offering opportunities for better access to public administration services; offering better training to civil servants; improving knowledge of the minority language and culture; creating spaces for the dissemination of the *Arbëreshe* language and culture.

Finally, the Regional School Office of Basilicata carried out careful monitoring at the Istituti Comprensivi in the Province of Potenza, noting numerous educational, training and cultural initiatives aimed at promoting the minority language.



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PUGLIA

Arbëreshe and Griko languages

Apulia approved **Regional Law No. 5/2012, 'Norms for the promotion and protection of minority languages in Apulia'**, which explicitly recognised the historical-linguistic communities of Grecìa salentina as well as the *arbëreshe* and Franco-provençal communities.

Arbëreshe language

Municipality of San Marzano di San Giuseppe (TA)

There is an *Arbëreshe* minority community in the municipality.

The use and teaching of the minority language is guaranteed during curricular and extracurricular hours, and the use of the language by staff is widespread in the offices.

There are cultural, religious and linguistic exchanges with Albania.

In addition, a **European project for cooperation and exchange between different language realities, called 'EURONETLANG - LA LINGUA ARBËRESH'**, was activated and developed:

- 'The Arbëreshe Multimedia Toponymy' Project.

The entire realisation of the Project was made possible thanks to the synergic work between the municipal administration and the Municipal Linguistic Desk, not only as far as agreeing on the modalities and locations for the placement of the signs is concerned, but above all in ensuring that each road sign carries the municipal toponym in the local Arbëreshe variety;

- the Lexicon Collection Research Project in the Albanian Community of San Marzano di San Giuseppe (TA).

As this area is still little studied from a linguistic point of view, the municipality developed this project, again thanks to the activity of the Municipal Language Desk, aimed at collecting and ordering systematically the community's vocabulary;

- the **Project: 'Web TV arbëreshe: disseminate and enhance'**.

In the wake of the European project, the literacy work in the local Arbëreshe language is being continued, by exploiting the opportunity of the web to enter the 'daily life' of young people through the means of modern multimedia, but above all the project addresses all those interested in exploring a history of migration from which an area



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known as 'Arberia tarantina' originated; the project also traces an ethno-linguistic map to disseminate and valorise the signs and sounds of a language in danger of extinction.

Griko language

There are divergent studies on the origin of the *Griko* community: on the one hand, there are those who believe that the first settlements date back to classical times, in particular to the Magna Graecia period; others, on the other hand, argue that the Greek character of this area has its roots in the later Byzantine period.

In order to coordinate its activities synergistically, the *griko* community of Apulia has set up a Union of Municipalities made up by 12 communities: Martano, Melpignano, Cutrofiano, Corigliano d'Otranto, Castrignano de Greci, Soleto, Martignano, Sternatia, Zollino, Carpignano salentino, Sogliano Cavour, Calimera.

The 'La Notte della Taranta' Foundation has been working to protect the heritage of the Hellenic-speaking language since 1998 and it launches the 'Taranters - Festival' project every year, a research, training and didactic itinerary in the company of the Foundation's musicians, aimed at children and teen-agers attending schools in the municipalities involved. From tradition we move on to innovation, with the reinterpretation in a modern key of some popular songs that flow into a special section of the Festival. In addition to the Councillor of the Regional Department for Labour Policies, Education and Training of the Apulia Region, the programme involves the Regional School Office for Apulia, the President of the Apulia Film Commission, the President of Teatro Pubblico Pugliese, the President of the Foundation "La Notte della Taranta" and institutional representatives of the historical-linguistic minorities of Apulia.

In particular, in the territory of the municipalities of Zollino and Sternatia, which are part of the Union of Municipalities of the Grecia Salentina, even before the promulgation of law no. 482/1999 and regional law no. 5/2012, special attention was always paid to the preservation of the *Griko* identity.

The initiatives launched or implemented within the areas of interest are listed below.



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Municipality of Soletto (LE)

The municipality is part of the Salento Greek-speaking area. There is a *Griko* culture workshop, which provides an in-depth study of topics related to the oral *Griko* song and the customs and traditions of the rural peasant world.

The municipal administration has financed and implemented various initiatives for the preservation and dissemination of the *Griko* language, both with its own funds and with regional and ministerial funds.

As far as toponymy is concerned, two thematic volumes have been published, with indications gathered *viva voce* from speakers, transcribed and geo-localised on the IGM (Istituto Geografico Militare) map.

Municipality of Zollino (Lecce)

In recent decades successive administrations have always supported and promoted all the initiatives of associations that set themselves the objectives of recovering, preserving, and disseminating songs, tales, and traditions pertaining to the *Griko* identity.

In particular, from 1981 to the present day, the 'Bottega del teatro' association has recovered and passed on the 20-minute song 'I PASSIUNA TU CHRISTU', committing itself not only to the performance, but also to the study of the roots of the song in question, which is the only existing story-singing song in Apulia. The above mentioned *cantica* is performed every year during the Easter period.

Moreover, in addition to having always supported the above mentioned association, the municipality of Zollino has also presented a series of projects and initiatives aimed at preserving the *Griko* idiom, in compliance with the regional regulations set forth in the above mentioned Regional Law No. 5/2012.

In recent years, the following projects stand out in particular:

- In the year 2021, the '*Spitte pu milune*' project was presented, with the objective of familiarising children in the six to eleven age group with the *Griko* language through the reading of fairy tales (*Kunti*), which, used as prompts (*Spitte*), can enable children to become more familiar with the *Griko* language and traditions. The programme was implemented through the use of workshop activities consisting in watching digital versatile discs (DVDs), listening to compact discs (CDs), performance activities and



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thematic meetings, activities that raised great interest and enthusiasm in the young participants.

- During the year 2022, the project '*I glossa nomeni*' was put forward, in cooperation with the Cultural Association 'KURUMUNY', concerning the research, editing and publication of material concerning the production of Greek gastronomic specialities, such as the 'sceblasti' (bread without a shape), a typical Zollini flatbread. The work carried out with the involvement of primary school children made it possible to publish booklet 'Sceblasti'.
- In 2023, the ongoing '*Aderfos Hellenic*' project was launched, involving a cultural exchange with the Greek municipality 'Aigialias', aimed at finding common roots.

Municipality of Sternatia (Lecce)

In the municipality, the use of the *Griko language* is still widespread, used widely as a common language, especially by the elderly.

Moreover, the use and learning of the language among the new generations is passed on through oral tradition, within domestic environments and neighbourly relations.

There are also several private associations in the area, including the '*Chora - ma*' Study Centre, which organises courses and meetings specifically for the study and dissemination of the Neo-Greek language.

Finally, **at the local comprehensive school, a Neo-Greek language course involving lower secondary school classes has started with the beginning of the new school year 2023/2024.**

CALABRIA

Arbëreshe or Albanian language

The *Arbëreshe* community in Calabria is the largest in Italy- the region has the largest number of municipalities where this linguistic minority is present.

The communities still use their own written and oral language, as well as upkeeping ancient cultural and religious traditions. Although they are mostly Catholic, the members of the communities still retain the Greek-Byzantine rite. The seat of the Eparchy of Southern Italy is Lungro (CS), where the Cathedral of St Nicholas of Myra is located.

The 20th century, in particular, was characterised by a flourishing of literary productions in the Albanian minority language. The studies carried out by Fulvio Mazza are interesting, as are the



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subsequent publications on the subject, including 'La Calabria albanese', published by Rubbettino, where the presence of Albanians on Calabrian territory is analysed.

Albanian culture, language and traditions are the subject of numerous initiatives, events and projects: **the study and research activities, carried out at the Chair of Albanology at the University of Calabria, with European relevance, are important.**

Province of Crotona

In the province of Crotona, the *Arbëreshe* minority is present, in particular, in the municipalities of Carfizzi, San Nicola dell'Alto and Pallagorio.

Municipality of Carfizzi - Karfici (KR)

All residents speak the *Arbëreshe* language. This minority language is also used in schools, as well as on festive occasions and in theatrical performances. There is an inter-municipal language desk financed by projects of the Calabria region and the municipal website is also translated into the *Arbëreshe* language. Municipal streets bear dual-language signs and there are places dedicated to the minority, such as the 'Largo Skanderberg'.

Municipality of San Nicola dell'Alto - Shen Kolli (KR)

All residents speak the *Arbëreshe* language. The language is practised in various community and social spheres (cooking, customs, dancing, etc.). There is an inter-municipal language desk financed by projects of the Calabria region. The municipal website has a special web desk in the *Arbëreshe* language and the municipal streets display signs in two languages. The municipal administration has also provided for the reception of TV Shqiptar, the Albanian television.

Municipality of Pallagorio - Puheriu (KR)

All residents speak the *Arbëreshe* language. The language is practised in various community and social spheres, there is an inter-municipal language desk financed by projects of the Calabria Region and the road signs are bilingual. In local public offices, the minority language is used for oral dialogues and within the framework of European Union programmes.

Province of Cosenza

In the Province of Cosenza, the *Arbëreshe* linguistic minority is present, in particular, in the provincial capital, as well as in the municipalities of Firmo, Mongrassano and Vaccarizzo



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Albanese. All the municipalities use the funds allocated by Law No. 482/99 for numerous projects and initiatives aimed at protecting and revitalising the minority language, and its customs and traditions, including religious ones. Exhibitions, conferences and historical catalogues/publications are organised.

Municipality of Cosenza

Arbëreshe (and Occitan) is also spoken here in the municipality of Cosenza. There are language desks and there are publications and magazines in the minority language. The toponymy and road signs are bilingual.

Firmo/Fermes Municipality (CS)

Although the *Arbëreshe* language is not present in educational activities, many children and young people speak the minority language perfectly well.

Oral use of the *Arbëreshe* language is widespread in local public administration offices.

Toponymy in minority languages is present in the territory and cooperation activities with Albania have been reported.

Municipality of Mongrassano (CS).

There are courses in the *Arbëreshe* language and culture, although the number of speakers is small.

At municipal level, there is a Language Desk and the municipality participates in provincial and university projects on toponymy.

Municipality of Vaccarizzo Albanese/Vakaricit (CS).

There is oral use of the *Arbëreshe* language in municipal offices. Bilingual toponymy is present in the territory.

Province of Catanzaro

In the Province of Catanzaro, the *Arbëreshe* linguistic minority is present, in particular, in the municipalities of Maida, Caraffa di Catanzaro and Andali.



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Municipality of Maida (CZ)

In recent years, there has been an increase in the use of the *Arbëreshe language* and, to date, about 83% of the local population speaks it. There are no language courses during school hours, but, thanks to local associations, afternoon courses in the *Arbëreshe* language have been held for children between 6 and 11 years of age, under the patronage of the municipality.

In public registry offices, the use of the minority language by employees is provided for. There is also bilingual toponymy in streets, monuments and historical buildings.

Municipality of Caraffa di Catanzaro (CZ)

Educational projects and ethnic reviews are planned during the school year, particularly for primary classes. The municipality is strongly committed to the cultural and linguistic promotion of *Arbëreshe*, through different tools: social and other media, conferences, exhibitions, publications, and various projects. There are cultural associations in the territory to support the authority: Pro-loco *Arbëreshe Caraffa*, Progetto Caraffa, UNLA.

In 2023, the municipality participated in the 'Day of the *Arbëreshe* in Albania', held in Tirana and organised by the Regional Institute of *Arbëreshe* Communities of the Calabria Region.

There is also a Language Desk and the toponymy is bilingual.

Municipality of Andali (CZ)

The teaching of the *Arbëreshe* language is ensured through targeted projects for primary and lower secondary schools.

The toponymy is bilingual and the municipality has joined projects for the protection of the minority language within the framework of EU programmes.

Province of Reggio Calabria

In the Reggio Calabria area, the presence of Greco-linguistic minorities is reported.

SARDINIA

Sardinian and Catalan languages

With reference to the linguistic minorities present in the region of Sardinia, particular mention should be made of the Sardinian and Catalan languages of Alghero, together with the measures



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to promote and valorise *Sassarese, Gallurese* and *Tabarchino*, **protected by Regional Law No. 22/2018.**

For all the minority languages present on its territory, the Autonomous Region of Sardinia finances curricular and extra-curricular teaching courses in all schools at all levels. These courses are supplemented by workshops financed with State funds under Law No 482/99.

In the Regional Council, both Italian and Sardinian are used.

With Legislative Decree No. 16/2016, administrative functions regarding minorities were transferred to the Region of Sardinia, pursuant to Law No. 482/1999.

It appears that in nine municipalities in the Sassari area, the majority of the resident population speaks both Sardinian and Italian fluently. In particular, in oral communication with the local administration, either one or the other language is used indifferently; in written correspondence in hard copy and/or digital form, on the other hand, only Italian is used.

In addition, language desks at local authorities or other similar offices are active in the territory for the implementation of projects aimed at promoting and disseminating the use of the Sardinian language in the local context. As far as language services are concerned, the following data are reported: in 2020, such services were activated in 166 municipalities, in 2021 in 258 municipalities and in 2022 in 116 municipalities.

Translation into the minority language is provided in all offices and the letterheads of many authorities are bilingual. Interpretation during municipal council meetings is guaranteed and the administrative staff is adequately trained.

Promotion and communication via web and *social media* was taken care of to develop the presence of protected languages through new technologies.

With regard to the dissemination of minority languages in the mass media, the Sardinian Language and Culture Service of the Region publishes an annual notice for local radio and television stations, daily newspapers, periodical and online newspapers, and Sardinian publishing companies, in order to provide grants for radio and television productions, for publications in Sardinian and in Alghero Catalan. The budget is approximately EUR 1,500,000 and the notice is divided into the funding lines summarised above.

In the past, the Sardinian region used its own funds to create an 'Atlante Toponomastico Sardo' (Sardinian Toponymic Atlas), which made it possible to draw up a list of all toponyms. Two didactic maps were also produced: one of Sardinian macro-toponyms, and one with the main geographical names in the protected language.



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As of 2023, the Public Notice for the protection of historical minorities includes an area of intervention devoted to toponymy through the financing of projects aimed at the adoption of place names in accordance with tradition and local customs, in addition to official place names; the funds that are used are mainly state funds.

As part of the General Strategies and Objectives of the 2018-2024 legislature, Regional Law No 22/2018 approved a language policy plan within the Regional Development Programme (PRS) with measures to enhance, disseminate and protect the linguistic minorities present in Sardinia. This is in addition to the many initiatives and good practices implemented to this end, including cultural events, celebrations and sign posting in minority languages, as well as research and study activities.

SICILY

Arbëreshe language

In the province of Palermo, in the territory of the 'BESA' municipalities, comprising the territories of Piana degli Albanesi, Santa Cristina Gela, Contessa Entellina, Mezzojuso and Palazzo Adriano, there is an *Arbëreshe-speaking* minority.

It is a Union of Municipalities, set up pursuant to Article 32 of Legislative Decree No. 267/2000 (Consolidated Text on local authorities), of a 'thematic' nature, with the purpose of safeguarding the traditions, culture and language of the Sicilian-Albanian (*Arbëreshe*) communities administered by the member municipalities, that do so at supra-municipal level.

The toponymy is bilingual, except for the municipality of Mezzojuso, and there is minority language teaching.



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CHAPTER III

THE ROMA, SINTI AND CAMINANTI COMMUNITIES - A FOCUS ON HOUSING TRANSITION AND INITIATIVES AGAINST ANTI-GYPSYISM

The monitoring carried out so far by the Directorate of Civil Rights, Citizenship and Minorities in connection with the so-called minorities without a territory (Roma, Sinti and caminanti) has focused on "housing", in particular with reference to the need to take a picture of the current situation and to promote an effective overcoming of the current housing conditions in the camps, thus contributing to provide useful elements to achieve the so-called "housing transition".

In the pursuit of an effective inclusion of the Communities in question, particular attention was also paid to the issue of statelessness, as a condition in which members of the Roma Communities often find themselves, through the provision of interventions in keeping with the indications transposed in the New National Strategy for Equality, Inclusion and Participation of the RS Communities (2021-2030).

In this regard, the importance of analysing the positions of registry, documentary and residence irregularities has emerged, in order to solve the situations of *de facto* statelessness, ensuring the legal regularisation of the status possessed.

Partly as a result of the direction taken by jurisprudence on the subject of *de facto* statelessness, an extended interpretation of the requirements of Article 17 of Presidential Decree no. 572 of 12 October 1993 has also been initiated, especially in order to respond more effectively to the difficulties that those concerned encounter in meeting the cumbersome burden of documentation required for the recognition of statelessness, a *status* that this Central Directorate certifies administratively.

This recognition can be way a out of the traumatic condition of 'invisibility' in which stateless persons find themselves, but often it can also be a precondition to apply for the Italian citizenship.



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In addition, the interaction initiated on this issue between this Central Directorate of Civil Rights, Citizenship and Minorities, the National Commission for Asylum Rights and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) have resulted in the drafting of a Memorandum of Understanding, with the intention of creating a fruitful and stable cooperation between the parties, strengthening the identification of stateless persons through mechanisms of referral between the procedure for the recognition of international protection and the determination of stateless status.

Having said this about the most recent initiatives undertaken at central level, what follows is an updated monitoring of initiatives aimed at the inclusion and protection of the Roma communities carried out with the Prefectures throughout the country and divided into regions, provinces and municipalities, for ease of reference

VALLEY OF AOSTA

In the regional territory there are no settlements of Roma, Sinti and Caminanti communities.

PIEDMONT

Municipality of Alessandria

The Municipality was included among the priority intervention areas established in the Piedmont Region resolution no. 22- 7099 of 10/2/ 2014 which established the "Regional Table for the social inclusion and integration of RSC". There is specific data on the actual attendance of Roma minors at compulsory school.

Municipality of Asti

The Municipality of Asti has developed the "Fiori di campo" and "Fiori di Campo 2" Projects, to combat the school drop-out of Roma children.



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Province of Biella

The Municipality of Biella has a registered Sinti community, located in Via Case Sparse, and housed in prefabricated units, campers and caravans. The municipal administration has set up an equipped brickwork area for public activities and the camp has essential services. Many members of this community have Italian citizenship. There are also other small settlements in Via Salvo d'Acquisto, Strada al Maglioleo no. 13/a.

Small settlements are also reported in the municipalities of Brusnengo, Cossato, Gaglianico, Salussola.

In the entire Biella area, there are no reported cases of forced evictions, anti-Gypsyism and/or racism, xenophobia, school drop-outs, and the facilities where these communities reside are decent dwellings with services.

Municipality of Novara

The municipality has two authorised settlements that have existed in the urban and social context for years. In the rest of the territory there are no authorised camps or camps that have formed spontaneously.

Province of Turin

The work carried out in recent years thanks to the Memorandum of Understanding between the municipality of Turin, the Prefecture, the Diocese and the Piedmont Region has made it possible to overcome both the settlement in authorised parking areas in Via Germagnano, 10, hosting 13 families, all of whom have been relocated, and the spontaneous one in Germagnano Ponte - Amiat, involving 104 families. In the latter case, 75 persons without registered residence signed an agreement to leave the settlement, receiving economic incentives (EUR 1,000 per family).

Numerous returns to Romania or migrations to Spain and Germany are also reported.

The five illegal Balkan Roma families in the settlement have been offered inclusion paths provided for by municipal regulations.

There is continuous monitoring in the area and, among others, the project submitted to the Ministry of the Interior by the city, through the Prefecture of Turin, called 'Campo Nomadi Special Project', as well as the housing and employment inclusion projects of the Liberitutti Cooperative.



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The city of Turin therefore considers that the 'camp overcoming' phase, implemented thanks to the above mentioned 'Campo Nomadi Special Project', is concluded. At present, there are three authorised areas, two inhabited by Sinti, totalling 100 and 150, and one inhabited by Bosnians for a total number of 100 people. The Sinti are perfectly integrated; some concern is raised by the Bosnians who, however, are regularly supported by social workers.

Province of Cuneo

In the municipalities of Cuneo, Alba, Canale, Trinità and Villa Falletto, there are Sinti communities for which intervention policies on the four aspects of the National Strategy are being activated. The camps are all authorised and well equipped with services. The communities are integrated in the territory and the municipalities carry out policies in favour of these communities with the help of the territorial Socio-Assistance Consortia.

Province of Vercelli

In the municipality of Vercelli there are three settlements of 10 families, amounting to 50 Roma persons, who mainly live in good housing conditions, in caravans or brick-built houses with water and electricity supply.

There are also Roma and Sinti communities in the lower Vercelli area, particularly in the municipalities of Crescentino and Saluggia and in the Baraggia area (Gattinara, Lozzolo, Ghislarengo). The largest settlement is in the municipality of Ghislarengo, where regularly registered Sinti reside. The dwellings are equipped and provided with services and in general they are in brickwork but caravans are also in use.

LIGURIA

Municipality of Genoa

There is only one authorised camp in the territory of the metropolitan city of Genoa, located in Via Nostra Signora della Guardia no. 15/A and 17/B. The camp features brickwork and mobile homes with adequate services.

Over time, municipal socio-educational projects have been developed, in particular for the school inclusion of minors, and extracurricular inclusion paths. In addition, initiatives have been



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taken to promote prevention services (counselling, awareness-raising on alcohol, addiction and drugs) agreed upon between the municipality and the Local Health Authority.

Families with minors and elderly members were taken into care by the municipal social services.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of Labour and the municipality, implementing Law 285/1997 for the promotion of the rights of children and teenagers; the Memorandum is renewed every three years and has involved numerous schools and Roma and Sinti pupils between the ages of 6 and 14. There are also pre-schooling projects for children between the ages of 3 and 5.

A further project between the Ministry of Labour and the municipality, called 'From the nomad camp to housing', was financed by the Ministry of Labour after the 2014 flood its aim is transferring families into social housing by means of subsidies (payment of the rent for 2 years, etc.); 2 families out of the 6 recipients have currently joined.

The 'Centro Servizi Famiglia Valpolcevera' also operates, with success, mainly in the area of school drop-outs.

Other local organisations contribute to the inclusion of communities in the area, such as CARITAS, the Red Cross, the Community of Sant'Egidio. Interventions are also addressed in the health sector to allow for free access to care or social support.

Small additional settlements exist in the municipality of Genoa, in Via Antonio Sertoli and Via Gualco no. 1; they are inhabited mainly by Roma with Italian citizenship. Sinti caravans come from the province of Alessandria, for a period of two/three months, to set up the 'Winter Park' in Genoa, in Piazzale Kennedy, to carry out their seasonal work.

Province of La Spezia

In the Municipality of La Spezia, some Sinti resident family units have been assigned social housing according to the local ranking list: these are 'ARTE' (Regional Territorial Company for Housing) lodgings.

In the Municipality of Castelnuovo Magra, projects have been implemented aimed, in particular, at minors and school drop-outs.

In general, the province meets the needs of these communities with active policies for an effective inclusion.



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Province of Savona

The most important settlement of Roma, Sinti and Caminanti (RCS) communities is located in the territory of the regional capital, in Via Fontanassa, where, according to the information provided by the local authority concerned, seventeen households are currently settled, for a total number of twenty-five people, all of whom are of age. The occupants of the area are all registered residents, therefore they can have access to the interventions and services provided by the social, social-health and educational services for children. Those in need are followed by the Social Services, Caritas and the Third Sector.

LOMBARDY

Municipality of Milan

The **Municipality of Milan signed a Municipality/Prefecture Convention entitled "Roma Sinti Caminanti Project 2013-2014"** aimed at housing inclusion, the promotion of labour policies and the redevelopment of occupied areas.

In the **Municipality of Milan**, relocations were also carried out involving families – Italian/Romanian Sinti communities – who had previously been living in the settlement of Via Bonfadini no. 39. More specifically, in May 2021, the families living there were offered alternative accommodation by the municipality, but only one of the families accepted and was therefore placed at the CEAS in Via Marotta no. 8, Milan. The remaining families occupied nearby empty buildings and unused areas; the families of Italian origin, on the other hand, sought accommodation autonomously.

In the metropolitan area there are authorised camps in Arluno, in Via SS. Gervasio e Protasio, and in Cinisello Balsamo, in Via Brodolini, where an Italian community lives.

The Municipality of Milan has also launched a number of local action plans under the '**Inclusion NOP**' to improve the health situation and school inclusion; the **NOP is coordinated by the Istituto degli Innocenti, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies and the Ministry of Education and Merit.**



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It is worth mentioning, in any case, that the settlements authorised by the municipal administration in Milan are as follows:

- In Via Bonfadini no. 39 there is a camp authorised by the Municipality of Milan by resolution of the Municipal Council on an area of approximately 7,500 square metres, owned by the state, where inhabitants live in caravans, containers, brickwork houses and prefabricated units of various sizes, equipped with internal services.
- In Via Chiesa Rossa n. 351, also known as the 'Villaggio delle Rose', where families are housed in wooden or brickwork cottages as well as various motor homes and caravans;
- in Via Impastato no. 7, there is a settlement housing Harvati Roma, with Italian citizenship, housed in caravans, housing containers, camper vans and prefabricated housing modules;
- In Via Negrotto no. 23, in an area owned by the Municipality of Milan, there is a settlement of Sinti people divided into family units, all with Italian citizenship, distributed in prefabricated housing structures, and, to a small extent, in caravans.

All the above mentioned authorised camps are equipped with utility networks (water, electricity and gas) and fire extinguishers are periodically delivered and checked to ensure fire safety. The Municipality of Milan periodically carries out deratization, cockroach extermination and sewerage system purging, and a regular waste collection service is carried out by AMSA. In some camps, there are also shared spaces/rooms available to the camp inhabitants.

In the Municipality of Milan there are also unauthorised settlements, in particular in the following locations:

- Via Cusago no. 275, where the inhabitants occupy plots of land purchased over time, on which independent brickwork cottages have been built and surrounded bordered by fences; most of the inhabitants are registered in the registry office of the Municipality of Milan;
- Via Monte Bisbino, where the settlement stands on plots owned by the Roma themselves, who bought them from Italian citizens in the past. Inside the camp, in which almost all people have Serbian/Bosnian and Croatian citizenship, there are brickwork dwellings, with caravans or prefabricated structures as outbuildings. Moreover, the camp is characterised by a sort of cyclical and physiological rotation of the inhabitants, as only a part of the occupants can be considered 'permanent', while the remaining part



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periodically leaves the settlement, making way for other families of the same nationality from other European countries, mainly France and Germany;

- Via Muggiano no. 50, where there is a settlement with prefabricated housing modules in areas used as urban gardens.

It should also be noted that in some city streets, itinerant caravans of the Sinti ethnic group, also known as 'the Caminanti di Noto' occasionally settle; they are named after the municipality of Noto in the province of Syracuse, where they come from. The areas most affected by these events are the following: Via Aretusa, Via Azzurri d'Italia, Via Caduti di Marcinelle, Via Cascina Merezzate, Via Cusago, Via De Gasperi, Via Jona, Via Monluè, Via Pertini, Via Ponti, Via Rubattino, Via Serretta, Via Toffetti, Via Triboniano, Via Varsavia, Piazzale ai Laghi/Cavalcavia del Ghisallo.

With reference to the project initiatives undertaken by the Municipality of Milan, the following are particularly worth mentioning:

The Welfare and Health Department - Rights and Inclusion Area of the Municipality of Milan is directly and fully involved in managing the social and educational needs of the camps.

The actions carried out within the four authorised areas (Bonfadini, Negrotto, Chiesa Rossa and Impastato) are aimed at fostering the inclusion of inhabitants in the social fabric, through a multidisciplinary and personalised approach, facilitating the connection between individual households and the service system.

The support provided to the citizens concerned is focused on the four areas of intervention outlined in the National Strategy: Home, Work, Health and School. The operators promote participatory pathways, fostering differentiated empowerment processes for the system and individuals.

Actions are therefore implemented in synergy with the various municipal sectors and with different institutions, such as: territorial social services responsible for the area of residence, specialised services (child protection), Education and Training Directorate, Local Police (Territory Issues solving Team), Housing Directorate, ATS and ASST, making use of the ordinary policies related to the specific areas of intervention.

The specialised team in Viale Ortles, 73 has also concluded important partnerships with non-institutional but proximity resources present in the various territories pertaining to the areas, such as the QuBì network, the CAFs and trade unions that deal with housing and Territorial



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Environmental Services (SAT) issues and Public Housing Services(SAP), as well as parish related initiatives and Third Sector organisations.

Through periodic visits to the areas and interviews at the municipal offices, the operators monitor the different situations and facilitate the emergence of needs.

The levels of school attendance recorded during the 2022/2023 school year vary greatly between camps. For example, in the Via della Chiesa Rossa camp, attendance was around 50 per cent; in the Via Impastato camp, where there less minors live, the level tends to be over 70 per cent. During the 2022/2023 school year and until December 2023, in the Via della Chiesa Rossa and Via Negrotto camps, the Inclusion **NOP for RSC Minors** was put in place – it will be described in more detail below. On the subject of the search for alternative housing solutions in the camps, it is worth noting how different the take-up of the SAP calls is within the 4 camps: while there was a high level of interest among the inhabitants of via Bonfadini, only a few families showed interest in the other camps. In any case, it should be noted that in the last two years there have been residents who have sought alternative housing solutions and successfully obtained SAP or SAT accommodation.

The management of the socio-educational services, implemented by the "ortles 73" team, also allows for educational and socio-assistance support/interventions aimed at social inclusion implemented by a mixed team, made up by municipal employees and qualified Third Sector operators, with titles and experience (educators, social workers, counsellors, socio-assistance operators, legal advisors, linguistic-cultural mediation service).

The Service is the connection point of the RSC system, as it coordinates the integration projects of the individual households housed in the facilities and it defines the objectives for the definition of the various individual projects, in agreement with the Managing Bodies. It also deals with the logistical and social management of the 4 Authorised Areas in the Milan area.

The target of the interventions is represented by families in difficult and socially fragile conditions, as well as in momentary housing discomfort, living in the residential reception facilities (COT - Temporary Hospitality Centres, CAA - Autonomous Housing Centres and social housing flats) and who decide to leave the authorised areas of the Municipal Administration, the informal consolidated areas and the spontaneous settlements.

The priority objective is the school integration of minors in particularly fragile conditions, who are guests in reception facilities or residents in authorised areas, in order to reduce school drop-



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out, increase regular attendance and promote educational well-being and success. In support of these actions, the team works in an integrated manner with the Education and Instruction Directorate: fruitful synergies have been established with a number of School Institutes, the relevant SSTPs and the Right to Education Office. The team also works in synergy with the educational team of the NOP Inclusion project.

The multidisciplinary team, based at the municipal offices in Viale Ortles 73, also offers a social secretariat space open to the public, aimed at counselling to, providing guidance and acceptance to the needs of families with minors in a state of fragility, evaluating requests for access to the residential system.

The objective is the social inclusion of family units through projects aimed at autonomy and responsibility. The pathways are monitored by means of tools to assess the effectiveness/efficiency of the interventions and short, medium and long-term objectives are outlined, which are constantly verified and evaluated.

The reception system - C.O.T. (Temporary Hospitality Centre) and C.A.A. (Housing Autonomy Centres) - also includes reception facilities, both made available by the centres themselves, and owned by the municipal administration but managed by Third Sector subjects according to conventions with the municipal administration. The purpose is the temporary hosting of family units with minors in housing emergency conditions and in particular of Roma family units.

Further objectives of the reception facilities are also the co-construction and sharing with the hosted family units of accompanying educational pathways aimed at autonomy and social inclusion, through projects aimed at supporting adults and minors in the areas of intervention which concern the active search for work and financial autonomy, the search for alternative, sustainable and permanent housing solutions, health, education and instruction of minors and training for adults as well, as well as the regularisation of residence permits to allow for the presence on the Italian territory.



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Data as of October 20, 2023

FACILITIES	FAMILY UNITS	PERSONS
COT –Centre of Temporary Reception Via Novara, 45 (Max 90 places) Co-planner entity: Intrecci Soc.Coop. Soc. Onlus+Fondazione Somaschi Onlus+Detto Fatto Società Coop.Sociale+Fondazione Casa della Carità A. Abriani Onlus+Centro Ambrosiano di Solidarietà Onlus	16	69
CAA – Centres for Housing Autonomy – Collective facilities made available by ETS (max 75 places) Co-planner entity: Centro Ambrosiano di Solidarietà Onlus+Fondazione Casa della Carità A.Aabriani Onlus	12	59
Social Housing facilities- Flats/lodgings made available by ETS (max 16 places) Co-planner entity Cooperativa Lotta contro l'Emarginazione Coop.Soc.Onlus	3	13
Social housing facilities – Flats lodgings made available by ETS (max 14 places) Co-planner entity: Fondazione progetto ARCA	3	8
total	34	149



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The social inclusion and integration paths put in place by the synergic work between the educational teams of the reception facilities and the central team of Viale Ortles have provided for various housing solutions. In particular, from 1 June 2021 to 20 October 2023, the following can be listed: 15 allocations of SAP housing; 3 allocations of SAT housing; 3 allocations of AUTE housing; 3 allocations of housing obtained by participation in private foundation tenders; 2 housing solutions put in place by families.

In the last Public Co-planning Notice for the management of the 2022-2023 system, a specific area dedicated to preventing and combating anti-gypsyism was included, which identifies the following objectives and activities.

- Objectives: Prevention and contrast of discrimination and anti-Gypsyism; deconstruction and overcoming of stereotypes, contributing to the creation of a welcoming community; development of an inclusive approach through the promotion of knowledge of the history and culture of the Romani populations; awareness-raising and capacity-building of citizens and of some specific targets with respect to the theme of inclusiveness, the fight against discrimination based on ethnicity and the promotion of the rights of all, providing ad hoc tools that enable their collective recognition and overcoming; enhancement of an integrated governance strategy between institutions and Third Sector subjects; participation, empowerment and involvement of the Roma, Sinti and Caminanti communities.

- Activities: realisation of events, meetings and awareness-raising, information and training interventions to promote knowledge of the history and culture of the Romani populations. The activities are addressed to the public as a whole and to targets specifically identified and shared with the municipal administration; events open to the public are also held on special anniversaries, in order to promote knowledge of the history and culture of the Romani populations for an inclusive community (e.g., on 27 January - Remembrance Day in memory of the victims of the Porrajmos, 21 March - International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 8 April - International Day of the Roma People, 21 May - International Day of Cultural Diversity, for dialogue and development).

What follows is a detailed description of what has been achieved:

- meetings in the city's libraries (Crescenzago, Baggio, Chiesa Rossa) for the knowledge and promotion of Romani culture, with the presentation of volumes dedicated to the history of the Roma and Sinti populations, with direct testimonies and moments of discussion with the public



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- meetings and training courses in secondary schools;
- cultural events (shows, concerts, events) in collaboration with Prof. Gintoli's music school and the Brera Academy with the involvement of Roma children;
- 19.11.2022 "Author's walk" open to the public to visit the Village of Roses (authorised area in Via Chiesa Rossa) and meet its guests, guided by Dijana Pavlovic and the testimony of Aldo Deragna
- 12.12.2022 Concert by Monika Lakatos and Romengo in the Triennale Hall of Honour;
- 27.01.2023 "Holocaust Remembrance Day - Remembering the Porrajmos, the genocide of Roma and Sinti", memorial ceremony at the Porrajmos memorial in Via Chiesa Rossa
- 09.02.2023 "Porrajmos. The genocide denied. The continuity of anti-Gypsy paedagogy", Vitman Hall of the Civic Aquarium, awareness-raising event on the history of the genocide of the Roma and Sinti
- 29.03.2023 "Gina Ranjicic - A gipsy poetess", Casa dei Diritti, presentation of the volume dedicated to the poems of Gina Ranjicic, the first literary testimony of a culture that, until the end of the 19th century, was an exclusively oral tradition;
- 19.05.2023 on the occasion of International Roma Resistance Day (16 May), flashmob "The Wheels of Resistance from Yesterday and Today", dedicated to the resistance of Roma and Sinti in the Zigeunerlager (Gypsy camp) in Auschwitz.

The Municipality of Milan also financed restoration work on the 'Museo del Viaggio' (Museum of the Journey), housed in the authorised area in Via Impastato 7, through the collaboration with the Romanodrom cooperative and the Opera Nomadi association. These actions also led to the formalisation of the creation of the museum association 'Museo del Viaggio - Fabrizio De André'.

With regard to the forms of consultation adopted with representatives of the RSC communities, the Via della Chiesa Rossa camp, in particular, implements forms of consultation with the municipal administration, which take place, in most cases, through the UPRE ROMA association and the KHETANE' association. On the other hand, the Opera Nomadi Association is active in the Impastato camp.

The "National Project for the inclusion and integration of Roma Sinti and Caminanti children" is worth noting – it is promoted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies and it was launched



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by the Municipality of Milan through the Welfare and Health Directorate, Rights and Inclusion Area, and the Education Directorate - School and Educational Services Area.

The project is part of the **NOP "Inclusion"**, which envisages actions in support of the specific objective 9.5. "Reduction of extreme marginality and inclusion interventions in favour of the homeless and RSC populations" and in particular Action 9.5.1, which focuses on activities to combat school drop-out and develop schooling.

The initiative is realised in co-planning with a temporary Association of Enterprises (ATI) of Third Sector entities (Fondazione Somaschi ONLUS, Casa della Carità "A. Abriani" ONLUS, CeAS Centro Ambrosiano di Solidarietà and Cooperativa Zero5) and it implements the aims of the **National Strategy for the inclusion of Roma, Sinti and Caminanti populations 2012-2020 and of the Third National Plan of action and interventions for the protection of the rights and development of young persons.**

The project also focuses on improving the living conditions of the RSC populations and has developed in two directions: a series of interventions and activities within four Comprehensive Institutes (Alda Merini, Cadorna, Marcello Arcadia) including a total of 27 classes attended by RSC minors, with activities involving both pupils and teachers; interventions in the territory of origin of the RSC family units, characterised by work with the families, the territory to which they belong, the community living on that territory and the related services.

The objectives of the project are: to improve the quality of the school inclusion and educational success of the minors – both RSC and non-RSC - of the classes included in the project; to favour access of RSC minors and their families to services in the territory; to create a sustainable multi-sectoral and multi-level territorial governance; to create a collaboration network.

Another important project is the overcoming of the spontaneous and stabilized camp in Via Vaiano Valle 41. Under the coordination of the Prefecture of Milan, in the spring of 2022, different institutional subjects were involved in starting and building the process of overcoming the spontaneous and stabilized camp in Via Vaiano Valle: Public Prosecutor's Office, Municipality of Milan, Local Police, State Police, Civil Protection.

The Municipality of Milan is involved at horizontal level with the Welfare and Health Directorate, the Security Directorate, the Housing Directorate and the Education Directorate.



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The involvement of the RSC Office in Viale Ortles, 73, in its capacity as specialist service, was necessary precisely to be introduced and meet the families and accompany them towards housing transition. The Project consisted in several phases: the first one, from May to July 2022, acquaintance and history collection, formulation of the SAT application; the second, August 2022, relocation and logistics; the third, from September 2022 to date, maintenance of relations and Progetto Ponte towards educational follow-up. A total of 27 families were placed in SAT accommodation, 25 in Case popolari MM accommodation and 2 in ALER – Lombardy Company for residential Housing accommodation.

Province of Bergamo

The city of Bergamo is not affected by the phenomenon because, following the dismantling of the nomad camp in Via Rosselli 100, which ended in 2006, the existing Roma communities are now fully integrated and settled.

In the province, a similar situation of inclusion exists, with the presence of small, fully integrated RSC communities.

Province of Como

The most recent survey carried out in the province confirmed the presence of small nomadic settlements on privately owned land in Limido Comasco and Comate Varesino, where inhabitants live in containers with electric supply only, but in good hygienic conditions, and in Albavilla, where inhabitants live in caravans, also on private land and have Italian citizenship.

On the whole, there are no situations of hardship and/or precarious health conditions and, in any case, all the families present are supported by the social services.

Province of Lecco

There are Sinti communities located in a specific area called Bione, to carry out activities related to the amusement trade. The Municipality of Lecco has activated inclusive policies since 2022 and there is a project of the same name called 'Bione'. There are no particular critical aspects.

Province of Mantua

It has mainly Sinti communities, but there are also Roma. In Mantua, at Via Learco Guerra no. 23, there are lay-byes with mobile homes and caravans. No particular critical situations are reported. No events of anti-Gypsyism are reported and the Mantua municipality has implemented policies



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to favour inclusion and housing transition, without resorting to evictions. Conventions are in place to facilitate community relations and involvement through cultural mediators.

There are also small Roma and Sinti communities in the municipalities of Castiglione delle Stiviere and Goito that refer to the social services, particularly for access to housing.

Province of Varese

No phenomena of particular housing discomfort or degradation are reported.

Province of Pavia

In the Municipality of Pavia there are two important settlements, authorised by the Municipality, belonging to RSC communities, in which Italian citizens of Sinti origin live. The first settlement is located in a central area near the Expo; the second settlement, which is smaller, is located between the municipality of Pavia and the neighbouring municipality of San Martino Siccomario. In the area surrounding the provincial capital, there are four settlements of Sinti with Italian citizenship, living in areas owned by the municipalities of Viduggio, Belgioioso, Torre dei Negri and Albuzzano, the latter currently abandoned.

There are also long-standing RSC communities in the municipality of Vigevano, some of which have been integrated into the social system. The members of these communities have the Italian citizenship and they are settled on land privately owned by several families. The number of inhabitants in the settlements is variable because the settled families often provide hospitality to relatives moving across the country. Inhabitants of Sinti origin predominate, but Roma and Caminanti are also present, although they are a minority.

There are also seventeen settlements in the Vigevano area; these are mainly Sinti and, in all cases, they are Italian citizens. All the settlements are located in private areas, mainly in the municipality of Garlasco (five Sinti settlements) and in the municipality of Gambolò (eight settlements, two of which of Roma ethnicity).

In the municipality of Voghera, there are people of Sinti origin, some of whom live in the nomadic camp in Via Piacenza no. 61 and in two separate houses located in Via Lombardia and Via Giudice.

In the Voghera area, the presence of two Sinti settlements of Harvati nationality (a group coming to Italy from Istria and Croatia since the 1920s) has been reported; these settlements are located in the municipalities of Pieve del Cairo and Mezzana Bigli and live on private land.



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In the Stradella area, there are four settlements of Roma with Italian citizenship, in the municipalities of Broni, Bastida Pancarana, Chignolo Po and Miradolo Terme: the first one lives on municipal property; the second and the third on private property; the last one, finally, on property jointly privately and publicly owned.

VENETO.

Province of Padua

A specific school, educational and integration support activity for RSC minors has been set up within the province. The families in the area live mainly in social housing flats (to which they have access on an equal footing with other citizens), on municipal or owned land. Special attention is paid to vulnerable persons, with temporary housing letting and the provision of various activities to improve access to social and health services.

Thirty lodgings were built in the municipal area thanks to the **project 'Dal campo nomadi alla città' (From the nomad camp to the city), co-financed by the municipality and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies.**

Province of Treviso

A large part of the households live in ERP housing made available to families to overcome the camps.

In Castelfranco Veneto there are specific activities to support schooling, the elderly, the disabled and non autonomous persons (with the collaboration of health facilities), as well as training and accompaniment to work.

In the municipality of Montebelluna, three municipal social inclusion projects were launched to the advantage of the largest communities, mainly aimed at the social inclusion of minors.

Province of Venice

In the municipalities of Cavarzere and Santa Maria di Sala, in particular, the resident RSC families live in social housing or in owned property, with a good degree of inclusion in the territory and positive contacts with the local social services.



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Province of Vicenza

The RSC community present in the territory of this province amounts to 458 persons and is spread throughout the territory of 17 municipalities. The above-mentioned data are characterised by a degree of uncertainty, since the precise membership of the RSC minority is not always known; in some local authorities, checks are underway to ascertain the actual presence of the members of these communities in their respective territories. Temporary presence in the territory of some municipalities have been reported, owing to the heads of families carrying out particular itinerant work activities. There exists an overall picture of the housing situation of the above mentioned communities, with particular attention to healthiness, the presence of minors and the level of social inclusion

The RSC community lives in heterogeneous housing situations: most of them are housed in prefabs, mobile homes, caravans, bungalows, located in both public and private areas; other housing situations were also highlighted, such as renting public housing, renting public housing for situations of housing hardship, living in owned housing, as well as forms of free loans of real estate.

On the whole the health situation in RSC camps/settlements is good and relations with the surrounding area are adequate.

The school attendance of the minors is regular; on one occasion, unsatisfactory levels of attendance were reported. There were also reports of theft and damage to municipal sites against some minors from these communities.

If necessary, the minors in the above-mentioned communities benefit from grants for the purchase of textbooks, stationery, school supplies and free access to the canteen service; if the need arises, those with a certified disability or in the process of acquiring a disability certificate benefit from the Developmental Age Service and neuropsychiatric services provided by the ULSS local health authority.

Disability support and services, voluntary work and support for homework and reading aloud, and support for school integration are also provided; initiatives for inclusion in sports, summer and pre-school activities are also implemented to the advantage of these minors.

Adults in RSC communities benefit or have benefited, as needed, from the following interventions: activation of labour insertion projects for disadvantaged people; offer of participation in training courses financed by municipal or regional resources aimed at increasing



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resources and skills that can be useful in the labour market; provision of economic contributions in exchange for socially useful voluntary services; regional aid for fragile families; maternity allowance provided by INPS for working mothers; "covid" shopping vouchers; support and services for disability; taking charge of the household in case of application for universal basic income.

A number of projects aimed at the social inclusion of RSC communities have also been conceived and implemented in the province, namely: **'Oltre il Campo' (Beyond the Field)**, which is supported by the Pastoral Unit and aims to accompany Sinti families towards greater inclusion in school, housing and work, with the help of professional educators; the **'Oltre il Campo Obiettivo Scuola'** (Beyond the Field Objective School) project, implemented with the support of the Third Sector, which aims to invest in children and young people as the driving force and vehicle for change in RSC communities, to the benefit of their quality of life and the quality of life of the same and of the RSC communities. **Obiettivo scuola**" project, implemented with the support of the Third Sector, which aims to invest in children and young people, as an engine and vehicle for change in the RSC communities, for the benefit of the quality of life of the same and future generations; **"Tutti inclusi" project** which, through the operational role played by Caritas and other Third Sector subjects, aims - through the activities of social workers, operators and volunteers - to promote the social inclusion of minors living in the camp. There are also ad hoc projects for the school integration of minors with the collaboration of Caritas, parish and private social organisations, with respect to specific situations of need encountered in the area, as well as a job placement project for an adult. The above-mentioned projects included the presence of volunteers, educators and operators in the camps.

There are 11 settlements in the province. Two municipalities have highlighted the presence of irregular settlements, on public land, with RSC families.

In particular, one family was reported to be living in precarious hygienic and sanitary situations (without running water and electricity); for this family, various projects were activated, unfortunately without success due to the lack of participation by the recipients, to guarantee minimum conditions both in terms of housing and the protection of minors. In another case, the eviction of a family unit from the camp by order of the mayor was reported. Other RSC community units live in transport and housing vehicles, and the municipalities where they live



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have established non-territorial routes where they are registered. Finally, in two other cases, the sporadic and temporary presence of campers in municipal parking areas was reported.

The municipal-owned rest areas indicated above are on the whole equipped, with water supply and sanitary facilities. In some cases they have undergone care and modernisation, special maintenance of the toilets and the sewage disposal system. The same areas are governed by special regulations. Two municipalities, on the other hand, reported precarious living conditions within their respective parking areas: in one case, it was an area allocated to the RSC community providing for maintenance work to be carried out to make toilets available as well as water and electricity connections; in the other case, it was an unauthorised settlement.

There are no specific housing policies for the RSC community. This community participates in public housing tenders and a fair number of allocations to RSC households have been reported, both in the provincial capital and in other municipalities. Some family units of this community live in ATER (territorial housing company) housing. The launching of two projects of free loan of real estate to RSC families was reported, as well as economic assistance for the payment of rent and household utilities. There is also the implementation of a project to overcome the camp through the relocation of people in real housing, through paths of inclusion and new ways of settlement in the area, thanks also to the cooperation with Caritas.

No eviction procedures were implemented. However, following the fire that occurred on 12.7. 2023 in the Municipality of Sandrigo - which involved an illegal waste dump near the RSC camp - and taking note of the need for urgent action given the lack of hygiene and health conditions and the presence of minors, a strategic plan was outlined at a meeting of the Provincial Committee for Public Order and Safety, in which the health administration also participated and which mainly fell within the sphere of competence of the municipal administration. This plan provided for the temporary relocation of 6 households to an area equipped with services, in order to allow the removal of all the household goods and the reclamation of the area itself. For those families who have expressed their intention to leave the camp, the municipality is ascertaining the existence of the conditions to step up the allocation of public housing. In addition, interventions by the veterinary service of the Azienda ULSS 8 Berica have been planned, aimed at combating the presence of stray dogs and restoring safety conditions for the camp's inhabitants.

In order to combat anti-Gypsyism and the phenomena of discrimination, xenophobia, violence and racial hatred, within the framework of the above-mentioned Project "Beyond the Camp", two training days were organised with the association "21 July" open to social workers, teaching



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staff and volunteers who in various capacities, collaborate with the project, with the aim of making them familiar with Sinti history and culture and deepening their knowledge of paths initiated in other Italian realities, aimed at encouraging the identification of virtuous paths of inclusion, to be taken as reference models. In addition, initiatives were reported aimed at involving some professional figures belonging to the school environment, in order to foster school inclusion and the enhancement of the potential of minors from RSC communities.

Province of Rovigo

There are Sinti and Roma communities in the territory without any particular problem and fully integrated in social housing or private property. Roma and Sinti, in particular, live in small communities and mainly in the municipalities of Adria, Bagnolo di Po, Canaro, Ceneselli and Lendinara.

Province of Treviso

In the territory of the province there are Sinti communities that settled in ancient times. Over time, the areas occupied by the settlements were purchased by the residents and built on; at the same time, these communities were included through the allocation of social housing. Beside Treviso, the municipalities mainly affected by the presence of Sinti are Conegliano, Montebelluna, Castelfranco Veneto.

TRENTINO ALTO-ADIGE

There are Sinti and Roma communities in the Trentino-Alto Adige Region; the Sinti communities, in particular, have been part of the social context for generations; they mainly have Italian citizenship and live in homes owned or in micro-areas made available by the municipalities, as provided for by provincial **law no. 13/1991** ("Reorganisation of social services").

Province of Trento

Housing policies in the Autonomous Province of Trento are regulated by provincial law no. 15/2005, and its implementing regulation; this regulation regulates access to ERP and is applied without any discrimination with respect to RSC households. All resident citizens, therefore, if in possession of the requirements, can annually apply for public housing and have access to calls for



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housing at moderate rents. Over the last ten years, access to public housing has been possible for most RSC households in the territory. In order to support particularly vulnerable situations, specific social projects of 'accompaniment to living in houses' have also been activated, involving the identification of housing by the municipal administration.

Data on the presence of Roma in the territory of the Municipality of Trento is not easily available, as these are communities - mainly EU citizens from Romania - with strong seasonal mobility- once the work period is over, the families return to Romania to reunite with their families, only to return to Trento when the activity starts up again.

The Social Service, in collaboration with the Local Police, carries out periodic monitoring inspections; these inspections are an opportunity to present the functions and methods of access to the Social Service and to local services.

The Municipality of Trento, together with a number of Third Sector organisations, set up the 'Roma Women's Table', which meets periodically with the aim of comparing and coordinating interventions in favour of Roma women in the territory (living in lodgings) in a fragile condition and at risk of prostitution.

In addition, there are educational/dissemination/cultural activities and projects organised by associations that work against anti-Gypsyism through the organisation of meetings and public debates; these are mainly activities organised by A.I.Z.O. - Associazione Italiana Zingari Oggi and Associazione Nevo Drom.

In the territory of the Alto Garda and Ledro Community, which includes the municipalities of Arco, Drena, Dro, Ledro, Nago Torbole and Riva del Garda, there is an RSC community ("sinti camp").

The Municipality of Riva del Garda, in agreement with the Autonomous Province of Trento, is looking for a suitable space to relocate this community.

In the Municipality of Rovereto there are people of Sinti ethnicity, specifically 142 people, 104 of whom live in housing. These are both public and private dwellings, in which mostly families with minors live. On the municipal territory there is a parking area authorised by the administration, where campers or caravans stay in decent sanitary conditions. The municipal administration has contracted out to a local social cooperative the management of accompanying interventions for the integration of the Sinti population, which are carried out through interventions to promote



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schooling, interventions for living together in the parking area and accompanying interventions in accommodation.

A secretarial and counselling desk, dedicated to the Sinti population in the area, is active at the headquarters of the Social Policies Service of the Rovereto Municipality.

FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA

There are authorised camps, almost all the members have Italian citizenship and there are no critical issues. They still practise traditional trades and have good schooling.

More specifically:

Municipality of Trieste

The Municipality has drawn up the "**Habitat micro-areas**" **Project**, implemented, in application of the National Strategy directives, by the Municipality, the Health Authority and ATER (social housing).

Province of Udine

At present, the Roma communities in the Province of Udine are small and all their members are integrated and have Italian citizenship. The inhabitants carry out traditional trades, the scholastic integration of minors is good and, more generally, the communities tend to become increasingly settled.

The municipality of Udine, in particular, has launched municipal projects against school drop-outs (cultural mediation, after-school care, educators in the camps, and job training for under-21s).

It then developed the **Roma-net European project (in cooperation between NGOs, non-profit organisations, the municipality, the local health authority, and the Ministry of Justice's minors office)**, aimed at integration in various capacities and housing inclusion, with the aim of countering the presence in the camps without resorting to evictions.

Finally, 'municipal areas ex zone 0' (so called because of their urban destination) were established, implementing the regional law of 14 March 1988, which allowed RSC to purchase



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devoted to agriculture used with mobile homes without foundations as it cannot be built on in order to acquire registration as residents.

Municipality of Pordenone

In the Municipality several households are housed in suitable housing, some in ATER housing, with an adequate level of social inclusion.

EMILIA ROMAGNA

Province of Bologna

The Municipality of Bologna has implemented the National Strategy through the dismantling of nomad camps, the promotion of self-financed housing solutions (**Regional Law No. 11/2015**) and the participation in the "National Project for Inclusion and Integration of Roma, Sinti and Caminanti Children" within the 2014/2020 NOP "Inclusion".

The municipal administration also adopted the "**Municipal programme for the identification of Roma and Sinti family micro-areas**" to overcome the camps through alternative solutions (transitional housing for vulnerable persons -, ERP housing, through research on the private market).

The municipality of Budrio has provided specific services for RSC minors followed by social services to avoid school drop-out.

In San Lazzaro di Savena, an integrated territorial team was set up to overcome the camps it meets monthly. This team has promoted access to conventional housing for 6 family units; socio-medical and educational pathways are also provided for each family unit.

Province of Ferrara

The administration has used funds from the **regional funding law No. 11/2015**, for the closure of large camps and incentives for the use of microareas, and it has designed the ongoing **Lanciodrom Project** (from 2002 but still operational) on the 4 axes of intervention of the National Strategy (Work, Education, Housing and Health).



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Province of Ravenna

In the Municipality of Ravenna, the Roma adults in the area are self-employed, the minors attend compulsory schools and they are monitored by the social services to avoid school drop-out. The households are recipients of ERP housing, allocated between 2005 and 2011.

Three households are housed in the Municipality of Bagnacavallo, Via Rossetta, 64/A.

The Unione dei Comuni della Romagna Faentina (Union of Municipalities of Romagna Faentina) also reports the presence of nine/ten Roma family units housed in houses, following the dismantling of the camp located in Via Corleto Faenza. The approximately twenty-six minors are fully schooled.

In the **Municipality of Faenza**, a project was signed between the Municipality and the Region for the overcoming of camps and school inclusion. All RSC family units are resident in public or church-owned housing. A project co-financed by the Emilia Romagna Region and called "**Protocol between the Unione Romagna Faentina and Consorzio Equo di Torino**" has been active since 2017; its aims are housing-work placements and educational interventions, as well as waste and scrap management; the Protocol also provides for actions aimed at regularising individuals who are ready to start work paths (3 paths have already been started). School attendance of minors is regular (3 use school transport).

Municipality of Parma

In the provincial capital municipality there are ten settlements in eight areas owned by Sinti families; most of the settlements are private micro-areas.

Only one illegal settlement of Roma people remains. Over the years, through the constant work of an expert team on the Roma and Sinti way of life, efforts have been made to monitor and reduce the phenomena of Sinti and Roma closure to the outside world, and a good level of control and knowledge of the territories in which they settle has been achieved.

Unlike the Sinti, the Roma live in housing, mainly public housing, and they still present socio-economic fragilities in that they tend to break off relations with social services, with a subsequent return to past lifestyles that are not in keeping with the living contexts of the community in which they live; the operators carefully monitor and try to reduce this latter aspect. At certain times, the difficulty has emerged for Roma and Sinti people to require benefits tailored to their actual socio-economic situations: if at some times the Roma population tends to



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isolate itself from the social context in which it lives, at other times it tends to seek contact with institutions for economic assistance. In the first months of 2021, during the emergency linked to the Covid-19 epidemic, the Roma and Sinti population continued to be encouraged to behave like the rest of the population with reference to the measures activated at that time (e.g. participation in the vaccination campaign).

The Municipality of Parma has also chosen to initiate a project whereby individual particularly needy Roma and Sinti groups are assessed and possibly taken into care by the Social Services of the neighbourhoods they live in, in line with what occurs with the rest of the local population; the aim is to guarantee these communities the same access requirements, the same support methods and the same opportunities as all other residents of Parma. Access to social services is therefore free, but, in order to promote knowledge and inclusion of the Roma population, the Municipality has also put in place a contract with the social cooperative 'Aurora Domus', for the management of the programme of interventions in favour of the Roma and Sinti population. Within the contract, a coordinator and an educator from the aforementioned Cooperative accompany, support and advise the local operators; the Roma and Sinti are thus guaranteed the respect of their culture when they are "taken charge" of. The dedicated team also carries out constant monitoring interventions on the territory, aimed at preventing situations of degradation and criminality. In addition, the coordinator and the educator are an important instrument to deal with different situations, including on-site interventions in the areas where the people live, favouring appropriate and positive professional relations between territorial social services and users.

This inclusive approach is based on a heedfulness and knowledge between services and users and has fostered the empowerment of the Roma and Sinti themselves, respect for rules and care not only of their own spaces but also of the social context in which they live, as well as integration phenomena (e.g. young people and children take part in social gatherings in the neighbourhoods they live in). In this way, social tensions and exclusion of Roma in the areas where they live were reduced. In addition, it was essential to continue working with the younger generations and to foster social inclusion projects, working with the social network and the Third Sector in the relevant area. Schooling poses no longer a problem and parents themselves are beginning to recognise the importance of compulsory school attendance for their children.



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Municipality of Piacenza

In the municipality there are twenty family units living in prefabricated, container and mobile homes; each unit is assigned a lay-by with toilets, it has a covered outdoor area used as a kitchen/laundry and an electricity charging point. There are two adjoining regular camps on municipal land, divided into 7 family areas. Most of the households live thanks to the inclusion income and the elderly are pensioners; some households also make a living thanks to iron collection; five adults are dependent employees. Four households succeeded in obtaining an ERP allocation in the year 2021-2022. In past years, the social secretariat (now no longer active) and the after-school service, which is still active together with the carpooling service, were present at the educational centre located at the camp.

Province of Rimini

The Municipality of Rimini adopted a programme in the municipal council to overcome the existing camp, with the allocation of equipped micro-areas to 6 Italian Sinti families and conventional housing to 4 families.

In the Municipality of Rimini, 46 people were identified, divided into 11 family units: some family units were found in the V. Iceland area; the remaining family units were found to be living in a number of homes with a good level of social inclusion.

The Municipality has also activated the 'Latcho Drom' project in the area, together with the Pope John XXIII Community Association and the Centre for the Study of Democracy in Bulgaria, which aims to contribute to reducing discrimination against Roma and Sinti communities and to foster their full social inclusion.

In the **Municipality of Misano Adriatico**, no. 9 settlements of Roma, Sinti and Caminanti communities have been surveyed, for a total of no. 113 residents, located in private micro-areas in: Via del Carro 98; Via Fagnano Selve 13/A; Via S. Giovanni 46/G; Via Ca' Raffaelli 6/A; Via Grotta 17/B; Via Sant'Andrea 7; Via Fagnano 2/A; Via Bruschetto 30/M and 30/L.

In the above mentioned settlements, the housing conditions are appropriate in terms of healthiness of the premises; there are no situations of school drop-out or particular problems of social inclusion.

For the camps in Via Carro and Via Bruschetto, in particular, in 2019, ten year long conventions were concluded between the municipality and the settled communities, pursuant to **regional law**



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of 16 July 2015, no. 11, 'Norms for the inclusion of Roma and Sinti'. The remaining camps are irregular; at the moment, no eviction procedures appear to have been carried out.

Families live in caravans, connected to electricity and water services.

A few individuals have applied for access to the ERP ranking; in this connection, the housing policies aimed at access to ERP are the same as those in force for the entire resident population, given that they are residents in the municipality.

The form of consultation adopted with community representatives is direct contact with the land owner.

In the regulations of Public Residential Housing, **the Municipality of Santarcangelo di Romagna** foresees both implemented and initiated housing policies for social inclusion and access to social housing and social lodgings.

The Municipality of San Giovanni in Marignano reports that it has activated the "Municipal Council for Inclusion, Rights and Equal Opportunities", to combat phenomena of discrimination, xenophobia, violence, racial hatred; although it is not a specific project for minorities in the territory, in any case it aims at spreading the culture of inclusion towards all groups and communities.

Province of Reggio Emilia

In the **Municipality of Reggio Emilia** there are mainly Sinti and a small number of Roma, all of whom are generally integrated. These communities have resided in the territory for many years and live in equipped micro-areas, monitored by welfare and intercultural policy services, including with a view to access to social housing; the General Urban Plan monitors these situations. The Roma, in particular, are of Romanian and Bosnian origin and live mostly in public housing or private homes. The projects in the area involve various actors, both public and private - Caritas, universities, businesses. There are numerous interventions to counter the school drop-out of minors and young people and job placement. In order to combat the existing rare forms of anti-Gypsyism, in 2023 **the Municipality of Reggio Emilia adopted the 'Local Action Plan to combat racism and forms of discrimination due to cultural origin and belonging and hate crimes'**.

The **Municipality of Cavriago** has activated initiatives for the 'day of remembrance' (Porrajmos) and inclusive projects for Roma and Sinti citizens.



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In **Correggio**, a social inclusion project was signed in cooperation with the social services of the municipality and the local voluntary associations, aimed at promoting school attendance for minors and accompanying adults to work, as well as making them aware of social benefits and taking them in by the social and health services.

In **Guastalla** an excellent level of integration of RSCs in the territory is reported; furthermore a project was drawn up to create a camp equipped with all technologies (purifier, gas, aqueduct, electricity). **The project was co-financed by the municipality and the Emilia Romagna Region and it was implemented in 2005 on the basis of the Opera nomadi's indications**; a monthly management contribution amounting to 10 euros was envisaged for each family unit.

Province of Forlì Cesena

In the territory of the province, there are no housing settlements of RSC communities, neither authorised nor irregular, except for the municipality of **Forlimpopoli** Sinti are present, placed and live in equipped mobile facilities - without any particular criticality - and authorised since 2016 to carry out the activity of carousel drivers.

TUSCANY

At first, interventions planned and implemented before and after 2014 are worth mentioning. In this period, 160 households (about 780 persons) throughout the region obtained allocation of public ERP housing through rankings.

The activity of implementing the **Integrated Regional Social Plan 2007-2010** also continued, implementing the "**Project for actions aimed at Roma and Sinti people**" to overcome the camps through ordinary housing solutions. Furthermore action also continued for the implementation of the provisions of **Tuscany Region Law No. 2/2000 "Interventions for Roma and Sinti"**, aimed at overcoming the camps with areas equipped for residence, recovery of buildings, use of social housing, as well as for the implementation of the contents of the **Integrated Regional Health and Social Plan 2012-2015** and subsequent amendments. In general, numerous extraordinary programmes are being tested to find housing on the open market.

Municipality of Livorno



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There are Roma communities in the municipality with some families entrusted to the Social Services. The lodgings made available to them are those provided for emergency housing; there are also allocations of social housing or housing from the Third Sector.

Province of Lucca

In the municipality of Lucca and in the territory of the province, several social housing units have been assigned in implementation of **regional law no. 96/1996**, which allows access to ordinary calls for public housing assignments. In particular in the municipal territory of Lucca, the following is worth mentioning

- **the "Prima la casa" project, adopted by Tuscany Region Resolution. no. 2798/2015**, with the assignment of 7 public housing units;
- the renovation of 2 housing units in the historic centre for families leaving the camps (Regional Council Resolutions nos. 752/218 and 269/2018).

Important interventions by the municipal social services to protect minors (educational and school support services) were implemented.

The existing camps present are the following: in Via delle Tagliate no. 613/A, with Sinti and Roma communities; in Via della Scogliera, with a small number of Sinti communities located along the riverfront, in addition to settlements in wooden dwellings and caravans and various artefacts in the state-owned area; in Via Fregionaia there are Sinti communities located in private areas.

The territorial 'Social Services Office' has taken charge of five families.

Province of Florence

In the Municipality of Florence, the last authorised camp, 'Poderaccio', was closed in 2020 and a social inclusion project aimed at both housing transition and all-round inclusion was started some time ago. Transitional housing involved public houses not managed by ERP, community placement and the purchase of private houses.

Province of Massa-Carrara

At the provincial level, specific inclusion actions were implemented. In agreement with the Michelucci Foundation in Florence, in particular, a project for alternative housing solutions was launched, which led to the allocation of social housing, i.e. the purchase of land, where campers, roulette units, etc. were settled.



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In the **Municipality of Massa**, there are mainly Sinti settlements that live on selling flowers or iron and on amusements connected activities.

A regular camp of Bosnian Roma in the **Municipality of Carrara** has been in existence since 1990, with autonomous housing units such as caravans and containers, equipped with services and supervised by the Social Services. The inhabitants live in private houses, some of which are social housing, or in mobile homes or caravans. Access to school has improved and so has the level of inclusion. No eviction procedures have ever been carried out.

Province of Pisa

The survey carried out in the province showed significant elements mainly in the territory under the jurisdiction of the Pisa Health Society (hereinafter referred to as SdS) - which brings together 9 municipalities: Calci, Cascina, Crespina-Lorenzana, Fauglia, Orciano Pisano, Pisa, San Giuliano Terme, Vecchiano and Vicopisano - and in the territory of the municipality of Ponsacco.

The acquired elements are reported below.

Updated data on the presence of RSC communities in the territory show the presence of approximately 548 people belonging to RSC communities. The overall picture of the housing situation of the above-mentioned communities, with particular attention to the healthiness, the presence of minors, and the level of social inclusion is as follows: the housing situation is improving in the territory of the Municipality of Ponsacco, as a significant part of the Roma families who occupied the "Bellavista" housing complex (which will be discussed below), in the course of 2023 bought/rented new homes; minors are regularly placed in the schools although there attendance is irregular; in any case, both the minors and their families have been taken care of by the Social Services. There are two regularly surveyed settlements: the first is in Coltanom in Via dell'Idrovoram and is made up by 17 flats (owned by the Municipality of Pisa) where 124 persons are housed; the second is in Marina di Pisa and it is a building of 5 flats (owned by the Municipality of Pisa) where 33 persons are housed. In addition, there is the particular situation of the 'Bellavista' housing complex, located in Via Rospicciano, in the municipality of Ponsacco, where RSC families, some of whom have regular rental contracts, have found accommodation. Moreover, among the interventions aiming at overcoming the precariousness of housing conditions, it is worth mentioning that a project elaborated by the SdS Valdera "Project for the implementation of measures aimed at the social accompaniment and re-housing of the inhabitants of the 'Condominio Bellavista' in Via Rospicciano in Ponsacco", financed by the Region of Tuscany with an extraordinary contribution of € 200,000.00, is being



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implemented. Within the above mentioned project, the Municipality of Ponsacco, envisages actions to support housing relocation through the disbursement of an extraordinary contribution to facilitate the payment of the rent for the new dwelling, to be granted upon presentation of a regular lease contract for residential use or a real estate rental proposal, as a rule, directly to the owner, with the periodicity required in the specific case, up to a maximum of € 8,000.00 per family. The release procedures carried out in the Bellavista property complex in Ponsacco were subject to specific examination at repeated meetings of the Committee for Public Order and Security and they were carried out taking into account the fragilities and providing for the accommodation of families with minors, disabled or elderly people in emergency facilities (hotels, farmhouses, holiday homes, for a maximum period of 2 months).

The cooperation between the Courts of Pisa and Florence, also through bankruptcy receivers and bailiffs, the Police Forces, Local Police and Social Services, with the coordination of the Prefecture, has been intense and has prevented forceful actions. In the SdS Valdera Valdicecina area, a school and extracurricular accompaniment project for Roma minors managed by the "Arnera" Cooperative and financed by the aforementioned SdS with € 30,000.00 has been underway for more than 5 years, while a housing relocation accompaniment project for the families of the "Condominio Bellavista" was implemented in 2022 and 2023 by Caritas in Ponsacco. Constant contacts with the representatives of the RSC communities are maintained by the Social Services and are usually carried out informally.

Province of Pistoia

There are five Roma and Sinti settlements in the municipality of Pistoia; the largest one has about 60 Roma and it is located in Brusigliano. In the areas of Fornaci, Bottegone, Pontelungo and Stadio, 160 Roma live in social housing, 60 of whom are minors.

In the municipalities of Buggiano, Chiesina Uzzanese, and Ponte Buggianese, Roma and Sinti have been living for many years in their own homes.

Province of Prato

On the territory there are mostly integrated Sinti communities.

In the Municipality of Prato, in particular, the existing communities live in four equipped residential areas; they are authorised and owned by the territorial authorities. The accommodations are mobile homes, caravans, or brick-built cottages and social housing.



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Roma are also present in the municipalities of Montemurlo and Poggio a Caiano. The situation of the existing communities is characterised by inclusion, with various initiatives aimed at support. School attendance is regular thanks to specific projects implemented to counter dispersion. Forms of participation in community inclusion processes are activated.

MARCHE

Province of Pesaro-Urbino

In the province there are no settlements of RSC communities.

UMBRIA

Province of Perugia

Within the province, in particular in the Municipality of Foligno, social housing was allocated for Roma and Sinti present, for five families in total; at present, there is only a small settlement at Campo di via Londra, which houses ten people.

LAZIO

Province of Rome

On 18 November 2016, the Municipality of Rome adopted an 'Inclusion Project' with the co-participation of UNAR, the Lazio Region and Anci, following a European call and specifications.

The "Citizens' Inclusion Table" was also set up, with municipal resolution 117 of 16/12/2016, which includes the "Table for the school inclusion and health of RSC" together with the AA.SS.LL. RM1, RM2, RM3 and the National Institute for the health promotion of migrants and the contrast of poverty diseases with the aim of socio-health prevention.



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At the same time, the NOP metropolitan cities 2014-2020 project was activated, with the opening of calls for tenders for the overcoming of the 'La Barbuta' and 'Monachina' camps.

With municipal Resolution No. 105 of 16 May 2017, the Municipality launched the 'Roma Capitale Guidance Plan for the inclusion of the RSC population' (PIRSC), aimed at overcoming the camps. To this end, socio-economic support was provided to address the so-called 'housing transition' and the instrument of the Social Responsibility Pact was devised, signed between the Municipality and people interested in exiting the camps. The allocation of ERP housing, even on a temporary basis, was also planned and implemented.

Following the above-mentioned modalities, the villages of 'La Monachina', 'Castel Romano' and 'La Barbuta' were vacated. It should be noted that the Department of Social Policies and Health of Roma Capitale has issued the public notice "In Dialogue with the City", for the identification of Third Sector Entities (ETS) available for co-programming (art. 55 of Legislative Decree no. 117/2017) for the definition of an intervention model aimed at overcoming the equipped Villages and the inclusion of RSC. In this way, the guidelines of the Rome Government of 1/04/2022 on the "Rarrangement of competences in relation to interventions concerning Roma, Sinti and Caminanti populations in the territory of Roma Capitale" were implemented.

The activities of this Table took place from June to November 2022 and they were organised into thematic subgroups on the following topics: anti-Gypsyism and participation; document regularisation; access to adequate housing; health care and access to social and health services; access to sustainable employment; access to education. Each subgroup, in accordance with the National Strategy for Equality, Inclusion and Participation of Roma and Sinti 2021-2030, carried out shared analysis of the socio-demographic context, identification of needs and critical issues, formulation of proposals and possible actions to be implemented, as well as sharing of objectives. On the basis of the above mentioned work, **Roma Capitale adopted the 'Citizen Action Plan for Overcoming the Camp System 2023 - 2026'** taking stock of the National Strategy. The plan aims at guaranteeing the fundamental rights of the people still living in the equipped villages, through concrete actions and priorities emerged and shared with the Third Sector Entities (ETS), in the Co-programming Table, for the following thematic areas: fight against anti-Gypsyism and participation; documental regularisation; access to housing, social inclusion and health promotion; access to work and education. For this implementation, co-design procedures were carried out with the approval of public notices for the still existing Villages with the aim of identifying single or associated ETSs. Once the co-design ETSs for 2024 were identified, the work will be implemented for the still existing Villages of Cesare Lombroso, Candoni, Gordiani, Salone



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and Salviati, as well as the procedures to identify economic operators to whom to entrust the actions for overcoming the Village of Castel Romano. With regard to the Cesare Lombroso Village, in particular, the Agreement concerning the overcoming project has been started, since it is covered by "Santa Maria della Pietà Integrated Plan - Lombroso Village Environmental Recovery", included in the Integrated Urban Plan of the Metropolitan City of Rome no. 26 "Santa Maria della Pietà Integrated Pole", financed within the framework of the PNRR (M5C212.2) With regard to actions aimed at combating anti-Gypsyism, the above mentioned City Action Plan provides for: the activation of new experimental projects to combat the phenomenon of anti-Gypsyism; the organisation of institutional communication and awareness-raising campaigns; the organisation of training courses on the subject of combating anti-Gypsyism. The above will be carried out with the support of UNAR. Particular importance was also given to such counteraction, favouring the participation of RSC in processes and concrete project actions for inclusion.

With regard to the presence of Roma in the Municipality of Segni, there is a small settlement of about 29 people who live in sufficiently healthy and socially integrated conditions; a few inhabitants have applied for inclusion in the ERP social housing allocation lists.

ABRUZZO

Province of Pescara

The Roma inhabitants are approximately 3,000 they are integrated in the provincial community, housed in private homes or in social housing, without any particular problems of healthiness of the environment or significant problems related to minors.

There are no authorised or illegal camps/settlements.

According to the communications received from the municipalities in the province, the members of the Roma community participate in calls for applications for public housing.

In case of absence of the requirements for the allocation of public residential housing, procedures have been initiated, especially in the Municipality of Pescara, to ascertain that the allocations are discontinued. With regard to these procedures, with the coordination of the Prefecture where necessary, the Municipality provides for the participation not only of the local



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Police Force and the Bailiff, but also of the Social Services, guaranteeing support to fragile subjects, taking them in charge, as well as identifying suitable accommodation for minors.

According to the communications received from the relevant Authorities, where the number of Roma pupils and students is higher the Abruzzo Provincial School Office has implemented projects and activities aimed at fostering full school inclusion, enhancing the customs and traditions of the community of origin and the participation of families as well; these projects, aimed at all students, are financed through the dedicated funds of the National Plans (NOP) of the Areas at Risk and Highly Immigrant Areas and of the PNNR under the heading "Actions for preventing and combating school drop-out".

Municipality of Teramo

There are historically settled and predominantly integrated communities in the territory.

A multi-year project was signed with the Caritas of Teramo Atri "Men are freed together", to improve integration through a research working table. This has enabled specific educational support with the activation of projects for schooling and inclusion and training placements to start work, such as tailoring workshops or forms of self-employment, in cooperation with the province's employment centres.

MOLISE

At regional level, no minorities without a territory live (RSC communities).

CAMPANIA

Province of Naples

The Prefecture of Naples has activated an inter-institutional Table between the Campania Region, the Metropolitan City, the Archbishop's Curia of Naples, Afragola and Casoria for the implementation of a memorandum of Understanding that is currently being implemented as well as for the management of funding allocated for this purpose.



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In the metropolitan area of Naples, there are seventeen Roma community settlements, located in the municipalities of Giugliano, Casoria, Afragola, Arzano, Caivano and Qualiano, as well as in the provincial capital. Interventions and projects are under way for these settlements, in particular aimed at overcoming the camps and at inclusion.

At present, approximately 1,500 Roma are living in the territory of the Municipality of Naples; they belong to two macro-groups that differ in terms of origin and migratory approach, consisting in the so-called Yugoslavian Roma of Serbian and Macedonian nationality.

More than one third of the Roma population is made up of minors; therefore, their schooling is a central issue on which part of the interventions are focused to counter massive phenomena of exclusion.

The following Roma camps exist in Naples:

- the Roma camp in Viale della Resistenza, 185 (formerly Via Cupa Perillo), Scampia Napoli, is the largest in Naples; the site's sanitary conditions are worsened by the phenomenon of illegal waste disposal, as waste is frequently set on fire. As far as the latter aspect is concerned, a special coordination table is operating at the Naples City Council, which will soon involve the Ministry of the Environment, the Campania Region and ISPRA (Higher Institute for Environmental Protection and Research);
- in the Secondigliano district, in Via Circumvallazione esterna, there is an authorised settlement on municipal land, made up of prefabricated buildings with connections to the utilities networks; the inhabitants are of Serbian and Macedonian origin and the children attend schools thanks to inclusion projects for minors and the protection of fragile subjects;
- in the Poggioreale district the authorised centre is located in Via del Riposo, consisting in prefabricated buildings with connections to the utilities networks; the children are all regularly enrolled in school courses and supported by the municipal social services as part of a cultural mediation and school transport project;
- still in the Poggioreale district, there is the settlement in Via Gianturco, made up of caravans and camper vans, with few services, and the illegal settlement in Via del Macello, also made up of caravans and camper vans; these are people of Romanian origin, including minors attending school;



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- recently, in the municipal area of Via Costantino Grimaldi (former iron market), again in the Poggioreale district, a new Roma camp has been set up where people of Romanian origin live;
- in the neighbourhood of Soccavo the 'Deledda' municipal centre is located- an authorised settlement inside a building owned by the municipality, with regular connection to the utilities networks; the community is made up of people of Romanian nationality. Social counselling and schooling services are provided for minors regularly attending school and supported by the municipal social services as part of a cultural mediation and inclusion project;
- in Via Pini di Solimene, in the Barra district, a number of families of Roma inhabitants have joined together.

In 2023, the Municipality of Naples submitted a draft project to the Inter-institutional Table for the gradual overcoming of the Roma camps, set up at the Prefecture of Naples; the project envisages the implementation of urban interventions and social inclusion, inspired by the principle of non-ethnic concentration, approved by the European Union. The methodology adopted is based on the principles of inclusion, legality and interculturalism, understood as recognition of the differences of identity minorities.

Three integrated areas are planned for the interventions

1. the first envisages costs to be borne for the recovery/renovation of confiscated property intended for housing emergency;
2. the second concerns the costs to be borne for the so-called 'solidarity rent';
3. the third one concerns the estimated costs for housing projects, integrated with paths aimed at labour inclusion, social and health protection and avoidance of school drop-out.

The issue of vouchers is also envisaged for those who do not intend to accept the solutions submitted to them, but who decide to provide for their own relocation.

There are three Roma settlements in the **municipality of Giugliano** in Campania:

1. the first settlement, which is authorised, stands in an equipped area on municipal land in the ASI area, equipped with housing modules connected to the water, electricity and sewage networks and communal toilets;
2. another settlement is immediately adjacent to the first one and stands on public land;



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3. the third camp, which is unauthorised, it is located in Via Carrafiello and is inhabited by the persons evicted from the previous settlement area, also located in Giugliano, in the Ponte Riccio locality on 11/05/2019. The Roma in this camp have been supported until today by the **"ABRAMO" Project, financed by the Campania Region with an initial amount of € 864,000.00**, which aimed at the realisation of accompaniment paths towards housing and work autonomy for family units., through collaboration with organisations of the Third Sector. A check is currently underway at the competent regional department for a refinancing of the project, while, with the cooperation of the regional school office, the schools closest to the camp have been identified with a view to the schooling of the children, already involved in the above-mentioned 'ABRAMO' pre-schooling project.

On the territory of the **Municipality of Caivano**, there are four settlements of people belonging to the 'Khorakhane' community, from the countries of former Yugoslavia. The first one is authorised and it is located in Padragone (S.P. 67 formerly via Cinquevie), Contrada 'Trivio delle Janare', on a municipal property area confiscated from organised crime (Moccia clan), where 30 housing modules are located. There are also three unauthorised settlements: in Via Clanio, a camp made up by caravans and campers; in the locality of Tavemola, a camp made up by shacks and caravans; in Contrada Marzano, a camp made up by mobile facilities.

Initiatives have been launched in favour of the Roma, and they are already been carried out by the Social Services.

Salerno Province

A number of local projects are active, aimed at safeguarding the hygienic and sanitary conditions of the camps, school and labour integration, access to public services and healthcare. The majority of people living in this territory are sedentary.

The inhabitants are Roma, most of whom hold Italian citizenship and are permanently integrated in the local socio-economic context, while only a small number of them are non-EU citizens, from the former Yugoslavia and Albania, or EU Romanian citizens, with a good level of integration within the community. Access to public services and healthcare is sufficient; there are no significant events of intolerance and/or discrimination. Non-EU Roma are duly subject to the rules regulating the stay of foreigners and, if legally resident, they actually benefit from the protection provided by the regulatory system. In any case, outpatient and hospital care for illness and accidents is guaranteed, as well as the right to education for minor children. Initiatives are



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implemented to foster the integration of members of these communities, particularly at school, through dedicated educational programmes.

Province of Benevento

In the provincial capital city an authorised camp with caravans and services has been in existence since 2008. There are also a few Roma settlements in the municipalities of Terme Telese, Solopaca and Pietrelcina.

BASILICATA

Province of Potenza

There are no Roma, Sinti and Caminanti communities in the provincial territory.

Province of Matera

In the province there are no I settlements of RSC communities.

PUGLIA

In general, it worth noting that the Apulia Region joined the **National Project for the inclusion and integration of Roma, Sinti and Caminanti children - NOP "Inclusion" 2014-2020**, promoted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies in the framework of the actions of the NOP "Inclusion" 2014-2020 and implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, University and Research, the Ministry of Health and the Istituto degli Innocenti. The project takes place in the main Italian metropolitan cities, which actively participate in the implementation of the initiative: Bari, Bologna, Catania, Florence, Genoa, Messina, Milan, Naples, Palermo, Reggio Calabria, Rome, Turin and Venice. The NOP continues the path of the **Experimental Project for the inclusion and integration of Roma, Sinti and Caminanti (RSC) children launched in 2013** together with 13 Cities identified by Law No. 285/97. Within the framework of the NOP "Inclusion" 81 schools, 266 classes and 600 target RSC pupils are expected to be involved in the new project.



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The Project's main objectives are: improving the school inclusion and educational success of RSC minors; combating the school drop-out of RSC minors; improving access to social and health services for RSC minors and their families; strengthening of a sustainable multi-sectoral and multi-level territorial governance; creating a network of cooperation among the cities participating in the project.

In addition, in order to facilitate the awareness raising in the territory in favour of protection against discrimination, consistent with the prerogatives granted by national legislation, the Region of Apulia adopted the **Regional Migration Policies Plan 2021/2023**, aimed at achieving effective integration of all the components of the migrant population present on the territory.

In line with the regional strategies on immigration, the Plan intends to remove the causes that lead to poverty and the risk of exclusion for immigrant subjects and households that are over-exposed to the risk of marginalisation; in this perspective, the main lines of intervention concern labour and training policies, health policies, housing policies, integration policies.

Municipality of Bari

The Municipality approved a local **action plan for the social inclusion of RSCs** with Council Resolution No. 718/2017.

The municipal territory is also the site of the implementation of an **Experimental National Project (between the Municipality, the Ministry of Labour, MIUR and the istituto degli Innocenti of Florence)** against school drop-out.

In the municipality there is an authorised Roma camp located in Via Santa Teresa no. 1, Japica area; the camp includes shacks and camper vans, allocated to individual families, toilets, common spaces for aggregation, recreation and sports. The inhabitants take part in a project against the school drop-out of minors and the families also participate in activities organised by the Family Centre in Japica. The municipality has, in fact, participated in the NOP ministerial project RSC inclusion, aimed mainly at minors, but also at socio-occupational initiatives for adults. Meetings are organised at the camp, aimed at combating anti-Gypsyism with the involvement of civil, lay and religious society and with the intermediation of professional figures such as trained cultural mediators among the people in the camp.

There are two other unauthorised settlements in Via di Cagno Abbrescia (former Case Scianatico) and in Via Gen. Carlo Alberto Dalla Chiesa s.n.c.



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Province of Lecce

There are two main settlements in the municipality of Lecce:

- 'Campo Salentina', about 5 km from the city centre, which hosts non-EU Roma, mostly from Montenegro;
- 'Campo Sosta Panareo', a rest camp authorised in 1998, located on the S.S. 7 ter Lecce and managed by the Lecce municipal administration.

In particular, "Campo Sosta Panareo", in existence since 1998 – when various family units settled- has undergone numerous changes. The rest area, in fact, which used to be an agglomeration of shacks and dilapidated caravans, is now mainly made up of residential units that guarantee the occupants decent living conditions. The area is subdivided into two areas: the first one is larger and it is made up of 21 dwellings; the second one is made up by caravans and service facilities. In particular, the dwellings are divided as follows: no. 10 prefabricated dwellings which were purchased and put in place, subject to financial availability of the Municipal and Provincial Administration since 2007- these facilities house no. 44 Roma live; no. 16 masonry dwellings built with financial resources provided for through **ministerial funds related to the 'Security Framework for the Development of the Region of Apulia'** entirely managed by the Municipality's Technical Offices in 2009-these facilities house no. 101 Roma; No. 5 prefabricated housing modules, with an attached multi-purpose room, built with funding from the **Apulia Region related to the "OP - RDEF 2007 - 2013"** and delivered in 2016. These dwellings were delivered by the Lecce Municipal Administration, on a free loan basis, to as many families and each one consists in a kitchen, bedrooms and a toilet and houses a total of 50 Roma. All the dwellings are clean, tidy and dignified and have electricity, water and sewage services, including the shacks and caravans. For the general management of the camp, awareness-raising initiatives on various topics are organised both by public bodies (e.g. ASL Lecce, which has planned the 'prevention of Uterus Cancer' project - aimed at encouraging vaccination against papilloma virus - or the SU.PR.EME project, to combat the systems of labour exploitation of immigrants) and by the Third Sector (e.g. the Italian Red Cross or non-profit associations). For the dissemination of initiatives and/or meetings and/or messages to be given in a general form to the entire community, reference is often made to the 'Campo Sosta' representative (elected by the inhabitants themselves).

Still with reference to the "Campo Sosta Panareo", it should be noted that the Roma living there have been settled for more than 30 years and regularly reside in the country.



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Each household produces a legally declared income. In the past, these Roma have attended vocational training courses, thanks to which they have obtained VAT numbers from the local Chamber of Commerce for selling flowers, buying and selling used cars, and carrying out street vending activities.

In recent years, some have obtained a long-term residence permit, while those born in Italy have acquired the right to Italian citizenship. With regard to the minors (no. 82) present in the above mentioned rest camp, most of them are entrusted to the Social Services of the Municipality of Lecce by the Juvenile Court, for the monitoring and control of parental functions and living conditions. In this regard, the Social Services of the Municipality of Lecce rely on a professional socio-pedagogical team made up by a social worker and a pedagogue.

The above has enabled the Lecce Municipal Administration to make choices oriented towards educational planning aimed at social inclusion through the enjoyment of the right to study, as a necessary condition for access to education and to the subsequent acquisition of critical thinking leading towards overcoming life within the camp.

Also on the pedagogical level, actions are implemented involving the school and the family, also aimed at establishing contacts with school managers and teachers, for the collection of information data relating to the following areas: attendance, school performance, social-relational sphere with peers and adults.

Data collected with reference to the above mentioned areas are also useful to draw up customised educational projects in response to the needs of individuals.

The Municipal Administration of Lecce, again with a view to guaranteeing education, also prepares actions aimed at removing material obstacles that slow down this aim, such as the school bus service - in favour of minors attending pre-school, primary, first and second grade secondary schools - and the possibility of enrolling them in possible after-school and/or Day Care Centres, including upon proposal of the Juvenile Judicial Authority. To date, the school attendance of Roma minors in the above mentioned camp is 100%, as all the children are regularly enrolled in school with almost total attendance, although not always regular. The minors in compulsory education who do not choose to continue their education within the school institution are supported in the orientation for the choice of training courses available in the area



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With regard to access to social and health services, it should be noted that all inhabitants at the 'Panareo camp', holding a regular residence permit and residing in the Municipality of Lecce, are enrolled in the National Health Service and are in charge of paediatricians and general practitioners whom they can freely choose; consequently, they have access to all health services.

With the support of the Social Services, over the years, most of the Roma families have participated in calls for tenders for Public Residential Housing in the Municipality of Lecce and, at present, several families have been allocated social housing.

In the Municipality of Galatone, although there is no camp, a large portion of several generations of the population of Roma origin has been settled. The members of this group have long been involved in integration processes that have favoured both the learning of the Italian language and their full socio-territorial integration within the municipality population, eased by the celebration of 'mixed' marriages. In this regard, the municipal administration communicated the presence of sporadic relational difficulties caused, essentially, by the different *modus vivendi* of the Roma population, connected to their own culture.

Most of these households live in public housing and are mainly engaged in iron and scrap metal collection and, more recently, in commercial activities. The 'San Luca' neighbourhood, where the above mentioned dwellings are located, has been the subject of ongoing urban regeneration interventions.

Basically, the Roma community is present both in Lecce and in the municipality of Galatone, with regular residence permits. Overall, the dwellings and caravans are equipped with regular services and health permits. The children have benefited from Italian citizenship, having met the requirements. They have followed 'exit from the camp' projects and are almost schooled, especially in the compulsory age group.

Province of Foggia

In the municipality of Stornara, an area previously occupied by a Roma settlement was reacquired by the Apulia Region, which implemented project initiatives to relocate the inhabitants in the area. In this way, a new temporary settlement comprising thirty-six prefabricated and serviced housing modules was set up for the 106 persons concerned. In addition, initiatives are being implemented by the municipality and voluntary associations to promote the living and working autonomy of the citizens in question.



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Province of Barletta Andria Trani

In Barletta there is a small Roma community to which the municipal administration has devoted an entire area, equipped with services and containers, confiscated from the Mafia and located in Via Vecchia Andria.

CALABRIA

Calabria has approved **Regional Law No. 41 of 25 November 2019, aimed at the inclusion of RSC communities "Integration and promotion of the Romani minority"**, whose provisions modify and upgrade the previous Regional Law No. 19 of 19 April 1995.

Province of Reggio Calabria

In the year 2020, the Central Directorate of Civil Rights, Citizenship and Minorities of the Department of Civil Liberties and Immigration of the Ministry of the Interior granted a substantial contribution to the Prefecture of Reggio Calabria for reclamation works in the area of the former sports field of the Municipality of Melito Porto Salvo, occupied by Roma families.

To date, there are no Roma, Sinti or Caminanti communities in the province.

Province of Catanzaro

In 2021, a large contribution was granted by the above mentioned Central Directorate of Civil Rights, Citizenship and Minorities of the Department of Civil Liberties and Immigration of the Ministry of the Interior to the Prefecture of Catanzaro for 'Interventions aimed at environmental recovery and social integration' in favour of the Roma camp of Scordovillo, in the Municipality of Lamezia Terme.

Municipality of Cosenza

The Municipality reported the presence of a number of RSC communities, in particular 1035 people including Romanians, Roma, Sinti and Caminanti.



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Municipality of Crotone

Specifically, the Roma community is mainly present in the municipalities of Crotone and Cutro, for a total of about two thousand settled people, with the exception of a temporary settlement of just seven people. There is also a seasonal presence of Sinti caravans from Marche and Emilia Romagna. Forms of consultation with the Roma community have been adopted with the help of the Diocese, the Calabrian Opera Nomadi and the social services of the Municipality of Crotone.

Province of Vibo Valentia

No RSC settlements are reported in the province's territory.

SARDINIA

In 2017, in line with the National Strategy for the Inclusion of Roma, Sinti and Caminanti, the Office for the Promotion of Equal Treatment and the Elimination of Discrimination based on Racial or Ethnic Origin (UNAR) published an open call for tenders with the aim of implementing appropriate Regional Implementation Plans (RIPs) in the Regions participating in the initiative, as well as the issuance of Guidelines for their implementation

A multilevel governance support service between UNAR and the Regions promoted easier access to public resources for the implementation of the RSC Strategy and new projects that will be fielded by UNAR with the funds at its disposal, also in connection with the already active Local Action Plans (LAPs) project.

The entity awarded the above-mentioned tender was NOVA Onlus, a consortium of social cooperatives, as the agent of the Temporary Association of Aims (ATS), with the Caritas San Saturnino Foundation of Cagliari, as the agent, with the project entitled "Service P.A.R. - Regional Action Plans, System of Pilot Interventions for the creation of Local Tables and Networks of Stakeholders involved in different capacities with RSC communities", in order to foster the participation of Roma in social, political, economic and civic life, with funding from the **NOP Inclusion 2014-2020, in which the Region of Sardinia formally participated with the Councillor's note prot. no. 3404 of 19.9.2019.** The Project also envisaged the creation of a



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Regional Coordination Unit, to achieve the necessary central coordination with the Local Action Plans, but also with the aim of ensuring a synergic and homogeneous implementation of the National Strategy at territorial level, with tasks of information, awareness-raising and monitoring regarding the listing of the objectives envisaged for the various individual territorial areas (regional, provincial, municipal). The action "P.A.R. - Regional Action Plans, system of pilot interventions for the creation of Local Tables and networks of stakeholders involved in different capacities with the RSC communities, promoting the participation of Roma in social, political, economic and civic life" is part of Axis 3 of the NOP "Systems and Models of Social Intervention," Specific Objective 9.5 "Reduction of extreme marginality and inclusion interventions in favor of homeless people and Roma, Sinti and Caminanti populations in keeping with the National Inclusion Strategy," where Action 9.5.4 is envisaged with the title "Comprehensive intake interventions, social mediation and family education interventions, and promotion of participation as well as the **resolution "Assessoradu de su traballu, formazione professionale, cooperazione e segurantzia sotziale" (Department of Labor, Vocational Training, Cooperation and Social Security pilot Conflict and awareness raising).**" The project was formally launched on July 6, 2021, with needs analysis and capacity-building actions, which enabled the achievement of some important results, in particular: analysis of the existing regulatory and administrative framework (regional laws, ordinances, resolutions) and identification of possible ways of governance of the Regional Coordination and drafting of the PAR; identification of stakeholders, including relevant municipal administrations and RSC and sector associations; and implementation of needs mapping on the Strategy themes and definition of the ways of project management and monitoring. The role of the regional administration was to foster inter-institutional dialogue to ensure liaison with other relevant institutions, public and private, of reference for coordination, mediation and conflict resolution, as well as to facilitate the development of the PAR for the inclusion of RSC communities within its territory. By Determination of the Director General of the Department of Labor, Vocational Training, Cooperation and Social Security, no. 4655/64532 of 07/10/2022, **the Regional Coordination for the promotion of social, housing and socio-economic development opportunities in favor of Roma, Sinti and Caminanti communities was established; the work of the above mentioned Coordination resulted in the document "Regional Coordination PAR Sardinia HABITATION GROUP" as well as a "ROM project sheet" - a Notice addressed to municipalities financed with funds from the new programming ROP ESF + 2021/2027 was drawn up.**



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Municipality of Cagliari

A project was implemented which made it possible to launch a **valid social inclusion plan, PonMetroRSC Project with European (ESF) and partly municipal funds within the framework of the Operational Program Metropolitan Cities 2014-2020**, in which Cagliari participates. Services are developed along different lines of intervention and activities in collaboration with the Third Sector.

Sassari Province.

Two municipalities in the province have reported the presence of family units belonging to the RSC linguistic minority, socially integrated and permanently residing in housing units made available by a specific regional agency (AREA) or by private individuals.

The Municipality of Sassari applies an **Assisted Voluntary Return Project and reintegration programs with funds from the Ministry of the Interior and O.I.M. (International Organization for Migration) collaboration.**

In the **Municipality of Alghero**, RSC minors are monitored by municipal social services. Schooling is provided.

Between January 2015 and February 2017, 11 housing or alternative-to-camp placement projects were activated with funding from the Region of Sardinia. Awareness-raising activities on mutual understanding in new housing contexts are also being carried out.

In the **Municipality of Porto Torres**, RSC minors are monitored by municipal social services; schooling is provided and a school bus service is active.

There are plans to overcome the current settlement thanks to a project and funding from the Region of Sardinia to find alternative housing solutions (the participation of representatives of nomadic communities is also planned in this context).

Province of Olbia

With reference to the school attendance of minors, a percentage of 90% is reported in connection with primary and secondary school, and a percentage of 5%, in connection to secondary school. School bus services, social, sports and cultural assistance are also provided.



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A protocol has been signed with ASL Olbia2 for health checks (vaccinations and infection prevention) and the **"Romani" Project for social and labor inclusion, financed by ROP Sardinia is active** (10 nomads inserted in as many work activities).

A project is underway to overcome the camp present in the area, through the search for intermediate and definitive alternative solutions (renovation of country ruins, mobile homes on owned land, etc.) In 2018, 2 family units have left the camp (settled on their own land with mobile homes); soon to be followed by 9 family units, (7 will settle on their own land with mobile homes, 2 in housing).

Municipality of Oristano

In the municipality, many RSC households benefit from the Reddito di Inclusione Sociale (Social Inclusion Income) and the Sostegno all'Inclusione Attiva (Support to Active Inclusion); many are also supported by Social Services in the procedures for ERP (social housing) allocation.

The minors regularly attend school, in particular in the Oristano Comprehensive School Institute there are 2 Roma minors attending preschool and primary classes. An educational intervention for a disabled minor is also activated.

SICILY

Province of Agrigento

In the province there are no Roma, Sinti and Caminanti, except for the municipality of Castrofilippo where there is a well-integrated community of Caminanti who for the most part reside in privately owned homes. Since March, the "Forma Lab" Project has been promoted by the ATS (Agency for the Protection of Health) aimed at fostering social-work integration.

Province of Catania

A large community of Caminanti is present in the municipality of Adrano, fully integrated and housed in mostly privately owned houses.



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Province of Caltanissetta

In the Municipality of Riesi there is a community of Caminanti who settled in ancient times, fully integrated and enjoying decent housing conditions, in private and social housing. Cases of social hardship are regularly followed up by local Social Services.

ENCLOSURES

- 1. Report by the National Federal Committee of Linguistic Minorities (CONFEMILI)**
- 2. Report by the Joint Institutional Committee for the problems of the Slovene minority**