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THIRD REPORT
OF ROMANIA

on the implementation of the
Framework Convention for the Protection of National
Minorities of the Council of Europe

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ADDENDA

(available separately, upon request, from the FCNM Secretariat)

1. *The History of National Minorities from Romania (handbook)*, auxiliary material for history teachers, Pedagogical and Didactic Printing House, 2008;
2. *The ratification of European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Romania (booklet)*, in Romanian, Hungarian and English, published by the Department for Interethnic Relations, 2008;
3. *The Charter - giving regional or minority languages a say (brochure)*, edited by The Council of Europe, translated in Romanian by the Department for Interethnic Relations, and printed in 2008;
4. **List of Internet information sources** regarding national minorities;
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6. **Education of Roma children - the way to steady employment**, project financed through the Sectoral Operational Program for Human Resources Development 2007-2013
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INTRODUCTION

Since the last report regarding the implementation of the provisions of the *Framework Convention*, submitted on 6 June 2005, the Romanian authorities have continued to consolidate the system of protection of national minorities, considered one of the defining elements of the democratic society built up after 1989. Having ratified the *Framework-Convention* as early as 1995 and currently undergoing the third monitoring cycle, Romania has deepened its experience in applying this European legal instrument and, implicitly, has improved cooperation with the Advisory Committee of the *Framework Convention*, as well as with the relevant structures of the Secretariat of the Council of Europe.

The third monitoring report covers mainly the interval 2004-2008, during which relevant measures aimed at further improving interethnic relations in Romania were taken. Worth mentioning, during this period, the Hungarian Democratic Union from Romania - representing the most numerous national minority in Romania – has been part of the governing coalition and directly involved in elaborating, deciding, and implementing government policies, including those related to the field of national minorities.

All commitments foreseen in the governmental program with regard to interethnic relations have been fulfilled. The most important achievement was the ratification of the *European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages*. One pending issue is the Draft Law on the status of national minorities in Romania, which undergoes Parliamentary procedures.

During the period under review, Romania has continued to improve legislation, the functioning of institutions and the implementation of relevant policies concerning the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. All these were achieved with the direct and constant participation of national minorities, through their representatives.

In two decades of democratic evolutions, during which it became a member of the Council of Europe and the European Union, Romania has developed a complex, inclusive and well articulated system of protection of national minorities, and intends to further improve it through adequate public policies.

1st PART

Follow-up measures to the results of the second monitoring cycle

Participation of national minorities in the implementation and monitoring of the Framework Convention

- *Participation of national minorities in the implementation of the Framework Convention*

National minorities have continued to be extremely important actors in implementing the *Framework-Convention* in all areas. There is a constant interest of minority representatives at various levels for an appropriate implementation of the Framework Convention, for its use as an instrument of progress and for promoting dialogue and cooperation between the majority and minorities. The parliamentary groups of the national minorities (of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies), as well as the organizations of the Council of the National Minorities – which is an advisory body of the Government of Romania – are key actors in promoting the necessary measures in the field of national minorities. The Department for Interethnic Relations (DIR) has continued its activity as a specialized institution of the Romanian Government in the field of national minorities, by now traditionally headed by minority representatives. Minorities are also directly represented in consultative structures at local level, in municipalities with minority population, where consultative and cooperation mechanisms function in certain fields of activity.

All public institutions relevant for the field of the protection of national minorities employ experts from among national minority groups, an aspect welcomed, inter alia, by international organizations. The specialized departments of the Ministry of Education and of the Ministry of Culture include experts representing a large spectrum of ethnic groups. During 2004-2008, the president of the Hungarian Democratic Union from Romania, Markó Béla, held the position of Deputy-Prime-Minister, in charge for education, culture and European integration.

The activity of the Ministry of Culture is guided by the following: sustaining and promoting the cultural rights of all citizens (access to culture and participation to the cultural life); sustaining, respecting and protecting the right to the cultural, religious, and linguistic diversity, as enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union; the protection of the cultural heritage, including that of the national minorities, which is distinct part of Romania's cultural national identity; the protection and respect of cultural identities, traditions, and the cultural heritage.

The Ministry of Culture developed a specialized structure for national minorities, aimed at developing a closer dialogue with their representatives. The annual budget of the Ministry of Culture includes a special chapter for the support of national minorities, which funds cultural projects of the associations of the national minorities.

Improving the situation of the Roma minority has been a priority of all governments after 1989. In 2005-2008, hiring of Roma experts was encouraged in all institutions dealing with relevant inclusion issues. The National Agency for the Roma (ANR) includes a young generation of Roma employees, while also using the expertise of non-governmental organizations of Roma. The ANR is a specialized organism of the Central Public Administration, subordinated to the Government and coordinated by the Secretary General of the Government. Its goal is to initiate, to participate in and to promote, together with specialized institutions and NGOs, programs and activities aimed at enhancing inclusion of Roma. ANR is promoting a cohesive vision centered on the complementarity of national and international initiatives addressing the situation of the Roma minority.

The present country report includes data and opinions provided by all the organizations of the National Minorities Council. These contributions present the activity developed during the period under review, highlighting their concrete results and impact.

With regard to the general legal framework, minority organizations represented in Parliament continue to support the draft law on the status of national minorities. After the new Government was sworn in (January 2009), the DIR requested that the draft law on national minorities be kept on the list of normative projects supported by the Government. The document is still under parliamentary procedures.

During the 2005-2008 mandate, the Parliament has adopted the law on ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. The process of drawing up and promoting the ratification has constituted itself an efficient and transparent exercise of consultation and joint work.

The representatives of national minorities are effectively contributing to the development of legislation and policies aimed at promoting equal opportunities and combating discrimination.

The National Council for Combating Discrimination (CNCD) is an autonomous, consolidated institution, functioning successfully already for several years. Information provided by minority organizations, including specific references to situations of discrimination on ethnic or linguistic grounds, is part of the present report.

The preservation and development of the culture and identity of national minorities is of particular importance in Romania, as minority groups are not just guardians of a cultural past, but also creators of culture, who contribute in original ways to the national and European heritage. Cultural projects aim at both the preservation of the traditions, to be transmitted to the youth and public opinion in an authentic manner, as well as the effort of adjusting to the new socio-cultural reality, to current cultural phenomena, creation and innovation.

Tolerance and the intercultural dialogue are today a common place of Romania's realities, and the contribution of minorities is decisive in the promotion of these

values. Nevertheless, minority representatives prefer that public policies go beyond the concept of “tolerance”, which carries negative undertones. Instead, “intercultural dialogue” is considered to better express current cooperation between all entities of the society. Thanks to the efforts of the civil society and teachers from minority groups, two new disciplines have recently been added to the school curricula: *Intercultural Education* (secondary school level) and *The History of National Minorities* (high-school level), which can be studied as optional courses. The core curriculum for both disciplines was approved in 2008 by the Ministry of Education, Research and Youth. *The History of National Minorities*, experimental in its first year of study (2008-2009), is aiming to the general audience of Romanian high-school students and is taught in Romanian.

In December 2008, an innovative tool for Romania’s education system has been developed: an auxiliary educational material (handbook and CD) for teachers of the *History of National Minorities*¹, the result of two working years of the teachers belonging to minorities and of a nongovernmental organization active in the field of interethnic relations in Romania (the Association for Diversity). It aims at the promotion of the intercultural dimension and of good understanding among all the ethno-cultural groups through education, following the thesis of the *Thematic comment on education of the Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention*². The material contained in the handbook is annexed to the present report, with a brief presentation in English (Addendum 1).

In the media field, minority organizations participate directly in the creation of the broadcasts of a new TV channel (TVR 3), part of the public television, launched in October 2008 under the slogan “Together is Better!”. TVR 3 includes broadcasts in national minority languages.

The minority groups have actively become involved in promoting intercultural dialogue throughout 2008, during the *European Year for Intercultural Dialogue* campaign, managed by the European Commission. Romania’s participation to this campaign was coordinated by the Consultancy Centre for European Cultural Programs and was reflected on the web site www.dialog2008.ro. The topics related to national minorities and interethnic relations have raised the greatest interest and generated the most initiatives stemming from this campaign.

The use of the minority language in public life gained new good practices guarantees starting with 2007, after Romania’s ratification of the *European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages*. Numerous rounds of consultations with the minority organizations (in 2005-2006) resulted in the adoption of a complex structure: 10 languages are protected under chapter III of the *Charter*, while the 10 remaining ones benefit from the general provisions of chapter II. The ratification law was followed by numerous activities aiming at raising awareness with regard to the law and its implementation. The ratification law and the text of the Charter were published in Romanian, Hungarian and English. The brochure of the Council of Europe *The*

¹ *The History of National Minorities from Romania*, Didactic and Pedagogic Printing House R.A., 2008, collective paper initiated by the Association for Diversity and coordinated by a group of historians.

² Commentaire No. 1. *L’éducation au regard de la Convention-cadre pour la protection des minorités nationales*, adopté le 2 mars 2006 par le Comité consultatif de la Convention-cadre.

Charter - giving regional or minority languages a say was translated into Romanian and distributed to the institutional partners (Addendum 2).

In the field of the public administration, it should be noted that, following a successful campaign of the Institute for the Study of National Minority Issues from Cluj, the first application forms for public services in the Hungarian language were introduced. Translation in other languages will follow.

In the process of harmonizing the national legislation with the European provisions in the education field, minorities have shown particular interest in two new initiatives: the Draft Law for undergraduate education and the Draft Law concerning the status of the teaching personnel. All the National Minorities Council member organizations were consulted, during an extraordinary reunion on 25 September 2007, on these Draft Laws, and the final draft texts have been amended based on their observations and proposals. At the end of 2007, the draft laws were sent to the Parliament for debate and approval. After debates, a new law on education, including significantly more generous provisions on education in minority languages, was adopted in January 2011.

Upon a request of the Italian minority from Romania, the first class with tuition in Italian for children having Italian as mother tongue was set up at the “Dante Alighieri” Theoretical High-School from Bucharest in the academic year 2007-2008.

All the positive evolutions of the last 20 years would not have been possible without the permanent, responsible and effective participation of the minority representatives in the public life, including through parliamentary representation, consultation mechanisms of the executive (The Council of National Minorities), local assemblies and civil society entities.

As underlined in the Commentary regarding the effective participation of persons belonging to national minorities at the cultural, social and economic life and in public affairs³ adopted in 2008 by the Advisory Committee, participation of national minorities in public life represents a barometer of pluralism and democracy. Romania has achieved a high level of such participation in the last 20 years, and continues to consider ways of improving it.

- ***Participation of national minorities in the monitoring of the implementation of the Framework Convention***

The Visit to Romania of the delegation of the Advisory Committee and the Secretariat of the *Framework Convention* (3 -7 October 2005):

The delegation included:

1. Athanasia SPILIOPOULOU ÅKERMARK, at that time vice-president of the Advisory Committee of the *Framework Convention for the protection of national minorities* (Sweden);
2. Marju LAURISTIN, member of Advisory Committee (Estonia);

³ Commentary No. 2. *The effective participation of persons belonging to national minorities in cultural, social and economic life and in public affairs*, adopted on 27 February 2008 by the Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention

3. Artemiza-Tatiana CHIȘCĂ, Secretariat of the *Framework Convention*, Council of Europe;
4. Elena JURADO, Secretariat of the *Framework Convention*, Council of Europe.

In Bucharest, the delegation discussed with all national minority leaders, chairmen of the specialized committees of the Council of National Minorities, visited the national headquarter of the Hungarian Democratic Union and of the Greek Association of Romania. In Brasov, the delegation met with representatives of the local minority communities – Hungarian, German, Jewish and Roma. The program comprised also meetings with central institutions with attributions in the field of national minorities, with Brasov local authorities, and NGOs. Contact was made also with the Romanian television editorial office for minorities in Bucharest, schools in Brasov, editorial offices of some publications in Brasov, and the Roma community in Târlugeni.

At the end of the visit, the delegation assessed positively the level of discussions with the leaders of the minorities and NGOs, highlighting that a further focus on implementation and achieving results was needed.

A significant moment of participation of minorities in the monitoring process was the Plenary Meeting of the Council of National Minorities, organized by the Department for Interethnic Relations on 22 February 2006, in Bucharest, in order to debate the second opinion of the Advisory Committee, addressing the implementation of the Framework Convention by Romania. Representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, of the National Agency for Roma and of the Council of Europe Information Bureau in Bucharest also attended the meeting.

The positive and the negative aspects mentioned in the draft opinion as well as the objectives needed to be solved in medium and long term were discussed as follows:

- appropriate measures at central and local levels, aiming at a better implementation of the existing legislation referring to the status of national minorities, and a more rapid implementation of the *Local public administration law* in certain areas;
- an increasing presence of national minorities in the media, both through diversifying and developing the existing programs and through setting up new local radio and TV stations;
- providing higher budgets for education, especially in the schools with a lower number of students, but also for handbooks, experts and inspectors for minority languages, as well as introducing new languages in the educational system;
- continuing the dialogue with the political parties on the adoption of the Draft Law regarding the status of national minorities.

On the last point, the minority organizations mentioned that excessive politicization of the discussions from the Parliament regarding the draft law on the status of national minorities has delayed its adoption. They requested speeding up the procedures and demanded the parliamentary groups of the national minorities a more active role on this topic.

- ***Dissemination of the results of the second monitoring cycle***

After the adoption of the Second Opinion and of the Resolution regarding Romania (on 24 November 2005 and 23 May 2007 respectively), the texts were distributed and discussed at seminars, trainings and workshops of the specialized committees of the National Minorities Council. Also, in the context of preparing the ratification of the *European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages*, during 2005-2007, numerous debates and exchanges of views involving minority representatives were organized.

The main opportunity for disseminating the results of the second cycle of monitoring was the follow-up meeting on 14 December, 2007, organized in Bucharest by the DIR, with significant support from the Council of Europe. On this occasion, DIR printed a booklet containing the reunion's program, the resolution of the Committee of Ministers, the Second Opinion of the Advisory Committee and distributed a CD that included the English and Romanian versions of the written materials, the text of the *Framework Convention*, guidelines on the mechanisms consultation of minorities prepared under the auspices of DH-MIN in 2006, and - for the first time in Romania - the statement of the Advisory Committee on Education, based on the *Framework Convention* and the monitoring of signatory states. Moreover, a special section of the website of the Department for Interethnic Relations (www.dri.gov.ro) facilitated consultation of the documents by all interested parties.

Follow-up activities

On 14 December 2007, the round table on "The Implementation of the *Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities* in Romania. Results and Prospects" was organized in Bucharest by the Department for Interethnic Relations, with significant support from the Council of Europe (the Secretariat of the *Framework Convention*).

The objective of the meeting was to review the results of the second cycle of monitoring of Romania's implementation of the *Framework Convention*. It also intended to generate an exchange of views and further proposals aimed at improving the protection of national minorities in Romania.

Representatives of the Council of Europe (from the Secretariat of the *Framework Convention* and the Advisory Committee), leaders of organizations of citizens belonging to national minorities in Romania, personalities from the civil society and academia, representatives of the central government, as well as media representatives participated at the event.

The main topics discussed in the light of the conclusions and recommendations of the second cycle of monitoring were: the legal and institutional framework relevant for the protection of the national minorities, their participation to public life, education in minority languages, tackling the complex problems faced by the Roma minority, the promotion of diversity and intercultural dialogue, the way minorities are reflected in mass-media, the use of minority languages in the relation with local authorities.

The main conclusions of the roundtable were:

- Romania has a special interest and openness to the issue of national minorities and ethnic linguistic, cultural and religious diversity; whereas solutions and

positive experiences are acknowledged, new issues require an inclusive and innovative approach;

- Romania has built a tradition of dialogue, common values of all parts of society, and useful solutions for minority groups;
- Romania will continue to promote a key role for national minorities in safeguarding and promoting their interests, in accordance with the provisions of the Framework Convention;
- in the context of increasing the resources that Romania will benefit as an EU country, a more realistic needs analysis, a careful prioritization of projects, and a clearer result-orientation are expected.

- ***Other information regarding the Framework Convention***

Romania's six months Chairmanship of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers (15 November 2005 - 15 May 2006) was also a period of maximum visibility in terms of better understanding and applying the *Framework Convention*. The Government Decision no. 1366/2005 established the objectives, timing and contribution of institutions to carry out this mandate, paying particular attention to the protection of national minorities. Four important interethnic programs were developed during the six month mandate by the Department for Interethnic Relations. Representatives of national minorities participated and expressed their opinions during all these programs.

The interethnic programs, aimed at a better understanding and implementation of the *Framework Convention*, were:

- The Seminar on "Intercultural policies - from reflection to practice", Bucharest, 24 November 2005, organized by the University of Bucharest – the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, Centre Education 2000 + and the Department for Interethnic Relations. Results of field surveys in the multiethnic areas of Mureş and Sibiu in Romania were compared to those of similar studies in France, Germany and other countries. Additional written studies⁴ on education were discussed.
- The festival "Ethno-rhythm - The National Minorities Day 2005", organized by the Department for Interethnic Relations with the contribution of the Council of National Minorities on 18 December (the day of national minorities). The event, essentially cultural, included concerts and an exhibition of minority traditional objects, hosted by the National Museum of Art. The Head of the Delegation of the European Commission in Romania at that time, Donato Chiarini, was the special guest of the event.
- The International Conference on "The Participation of National Minorities in Public Life: The Role of Advisory Bodies", Braşov, 7 March, 2006. It was the largest event ever held in Romania with the support of the Council of Europe, attended by over 100 people from numerous European states. International

⁴ The book *Intercultural – studies, researches, experiences*, coordinator Lavinia Bârlogeanu, Bucharest University Printing House, 2007, in Romanian and French; the book *Identity Strategies and intercultural in Romanian area*, coordinator Lavinia Bârlogeanu, Humanitas Educational Printing House and Educatia 2000+ Printing House

experts, representatives of national minorities, experts from governmental and non-governmental branches had the opportunity to get acquainted with the multi-ethnic area of Brasov and discuss the effective participation of minorities in the public life (Article 15 of the Framework Convention) and the role of advisory bodies in this process (see Addendum 5 of the conference program). The event included a comparative review of the consultative mechanisms on minorities in Europe and discussions on a study regarding consultative arrangements established by various states for the benefit of national minorities, proposed by Marc Weller, Director of the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI)⁵. Three workshops, bringing together outstanding European personalities, detailed the issues and put the accent on three practical elements: membership and representation in advisory bodies; the status, mandate and functions of advisory bodies; their functioning and efficiency.

- Following the international conference, the city of Braşov also hosted, on 8 - 10 March 2006, the meeting of the DH-MIN (the group of experts on national minorities' issues from the Member States of the Council of Europe), organized by the Secretariat of the *Framework Convention* with the support of the Romanian authorities. The objectives of the two events in Brasov were related, the expert group aiming to conclude at that time a study on minorities' participation in public life and a volume of good practices in the field.
- The launching event of the European Youth Campaign for Diversity, Human Rights and Participation *All different, all equal* in Romania, in the city of Tg. Mures (7- 10 May 2006), organized in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Youth Authority and the Council of Europe - General Directorate for Human Rights. The event included a series of workshops on diversity, participation and fund-raising for youth organizations.

Another series of events included projects carried out under the EU Action Program for Combating Discrimination (2001 - 2006). 80% of the funding of these projects came from the European Commission - DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. The first projects in Romania that aimed at the dissemination of the *acquis* in the field of preventing and combating discrimination, they also highlighted the main aspects related to art. 4 of the Framework Convention (prohibiting "any discrimination based on the status of belonging to a national minority" and requiring the governments to promote "full and effective equality between persons belonging to minorities and those belonging to majority").

During 2005 – 2007, the Department for Interethnic Relations managed, on behalf of the Romanian Government, the following interethnic projects within the EU Program:

- "The Diversity Week in Romania", carried out from 6 to 12 May 2005 in Bucharest, under the auspices of the Prime Minister and with the support of the Romanian Peasant Museum, the Office of the Prefect of Bucharest, and the Cultural Centre Mihai Eminescu. Media partners were TVR 1, TVR 2, TVR Cultural, Rompres, The Romanian Radio Society, Radio City FM, 7 nights,

⁵ Report on Consultation Arrangements Concerning National Minorities, Marc Weller, Director ECMI, 7 March 2006

Financial Week, Romania Libera, and Ziua. Among others, the event aimed at raising awareness of ethno-cultural diversity and non-discrimination. The agenda included an information campaign, part of the European campaign "For Diversity, Against Discrimination", the national minorities festival-fair "The miracle of diversity", held at the premises of the Romanian Peasant Museum, as well as a seminar on combating discrimination in Europe.

- "The Diversity Caravan", 12 May -18 June 2006, organized in the cities of Constanța, Suceava, Cluj-Napoca, Timișoara, Turnu Severin and Bucharest, with support from the National Council for Combating Discrimination. The main objective was to familiarize young people and teachers from the main multiethnic areas of the country with the European laws and institutions combating discrimination. The project was run as a contest that requested a detailed knowledge and understanding of the most important European regulations on fighting discrimination.
- The International Summer School "Take Attitude, Stop Discrimination", which took place in Sibiu (2 - 8 July 2007), European cultural capital in 2007. 30 young people (undergraduate and graduate students) from Romania and abroad were trained in the field of anti-discrimination and human rights by lecturers from Romania, Great Britain, Netherlands, Hungary etc. The program included lectures, case studies, training modules focused on the fundamentals of human rights, the relationship human rights - media - civil society, as well as EU policies and institutions aiming at preventing and combating all forms of discrimination. The Summer School included a visit to the Mediaș town in Transylvania, which has a long tradition of multiethnic environment.

Another important program related to the implementation of the Framework Convention was "The Romanian-Croatian dialogue on national minorities", which represented an exchange of best practices regarding the use of minority languages in local communities, in the two countries, with an emphasis on education, media, culture and the public life. The program was consisted of two stages:

- 27 - 31 May 2007, the visit to Bucharest and Timișoara of a Croatian delegation, led by Milena Klajner, head of the Office for National Minorities of the Government of Croatia, which included MPs of national minorities, leaders of NGOs, representatives of ministries, principals of schools with tuition in minority languages and an editor of the Zagreb Television. The tour included visits to the Government, the Chamber of Deputies, the Ministry of Education, the National Council for Combating Discrimination, the Federation of Jewish Communities in Romania, the Union of Croats in Romania, the Union of Serbs in Romania, the Friedrich Schiller House of Culture in Bucharest, and various high schools and secondary schools from the Banat region of Romania.
- 14-20 September 2007, a similar delegation of Romania, led by Attila Markó, the Secretary of State of the Department for Interethnic Relations, paid a visit to Croatia. It included meetings with branches of the executive (the Office for National Minorities of the Government of Croatia, the Chairman of the National Minorities Council, the Chairman of the Commission for Human Rights and National Minorities in the Croatian Parliament, the Minority Division in the

Ministry of Science, Education and Sport), as well as minority representatives in the Parliament. The Romanian delegation also visited some cultural centers of minorities in Croatia.

- The conclusions of the program focused on the added value of the dialogue and cooperation between majority and minorities in regard of settling conflicts, as well as of promoting linguistic rights of minorities. A documentary about the project, produced by a team of journalists from the Romanian National Television (TVR), was included in the program *Coexistence*, broadcasted on the national TV channel. This film, translated into English, was presented by the Romanian delegation at the DH-MIN meeting of March 2008, as an example of good practices concerning the dialogue between majority and minorities and the reflection of inter-ethnic themes in the media.

At the seventh meeting of the DH-MIN (Strasbourg, 12 -13 March 2008), the deputy Mihai Radan, the president of the Union of Croats in Romania, introduced a case study on good practices regarding the use of Croatian, with emphasis on education. He stressed both the innovative solutions identified, as well as the need for further specific public policies aimed at protecting the numerically reduced minorities.

2nd Part

Measures for improving the application of the *Framework Convention*

a) Measures in regard of the recommendations of the Council of Europe

All institutions with attributions in the field of the protection of national minorities have contributed to putting in practice the recommendations contained in the Resolution on the implementation of the Framework Convention by Romania, adopted by the Committee of Ministers on May 23, 2007. The developments can be summarized as following:

- Measures aimed at awareness raising of the importance of tolerance and respect for diversity have diversified and expanded, targeting the wider public, politicians and the media. The Department for Interethnic Relations, the National Council for Combating Discrimination, the National Institute for the Study of National Minority Issues, the Ministry of Culture, the national TV and radio stations, the parliamentary group of national minorities, the Council of National Minorities, NGOs active in promoting democracy and human rights have been directly involved in activities promoting respect for all ethnic groups and their values, intercultural dialogue and social solidarity. National awareness campaigns on diversity, intercultural dialogue and the situation of Roma were run thanks to funding from the European Commission. The National Council for Combating Discrimination has become increasingly visible and strong. The public television inaugurated regional stations - TVR 3, while local radio stations, which also broadcast in different minority languages, have been extended. One important result of this awareness raising campaign was the fact that the xenophobic parties no longer passed the threshold in the 2008 parliamentary elections, as the public rejected this type of discourse (the case of the “Great Romania” Party). The

presence of Hungarian organization in the government during the 2004 - 2008 mandate has proven that the majority and minorities can work effectively in all economic and social fields. These new realities, difficult to imagine 20 years ago, have generated trust, mutual respect, dialogue and spirit of cooperation;

- The preparations for the ratification of the *European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages* and activities related to its implementation, which have unfolded during the period 2005 - 2008, were also opportunities for dissemination of knowledge concerning the linguistic rights of persons belonging to national minorities - especially among the institutions and the civil society ;
- A 2007 order of the Minister of Education recommends addressing ethno-cultural, linguistic and religious diversity in the curricula; in November, *History of National Minorities* and *Intercultural Education* were introduced at high school and secondary level, respectively. Teaching in minority languages was extended by establishing the first classes taught in the Italian language in Bucharest;
- With dozens of projects and programs funded each year, the Department for Interethnic Relations and the Ministry of Culture supported the interethnic and intercultural dialogue initiated by NGOs in all multiethnic areas of the country. Substantial funds were allocated to organizations in the areas of Covasna and Harghita, which include approximately 75% and 85% Hungarian population respectively. A new regional office of the Department for Interethnic Relations was opened in Miercurea Ciuc, which is also aimed to cooperate with local authorities and NGOs in Covasna, Mures, Harghita and Braşov. The department currently has six such regional representatives in Constanţa, Suceava, Cluj, Timișoara, Turnu Severin and Miercurea Ciuc;
- The National Agency for Roma (ANR) and the National Council for Combating Discrimination (CNCD) consolidated their status among the Romanian institutions and extended their range of concrete programs on preventing and combating discrimination and social exclusion, especially discrimination against Roma. ANR started to develop European funded programs, targeting in particular access of Roma to the labor market and the education system. The authorities also pay attention to the issues of housing and health.
- The public radio and television stations, including their regional studios and Internet radio in different languages, have substantially changed the audiovisual landscape in which the national minorities express themselves. The local studios fit more closely the expectations of ethnic groups in their broadcasting area, using increasingly more minority languages, while in Bucharest the studios have diversified broadcasts, target audiences, broadcasting hours, trying to keep addressability to a broad diverse public. TV and radio programs with and for minorities are aired on different channels and frequencies, so as to lessen the problem of broadcasting slots. In terms of coverage of all areas, progress has been made thanks to cable companies which include TVR channels in their packages. TV stations from neighboring countries are also included in the packages if cable operators. Roma access to radio and television station programs is ensured especially through programs produced by the Roma Party *Pro Europa*, also broadcasted by private televisions.

- The Ministry of Education and its local (county) structures continued their efforts for ensuring school attendance by Roma children. The measures undertaken by the ministry for combating segregation are in force and monitored, whereas the system of allocating special seats for Roma in high schools and universities has been continuously improved. The interested organizations and the Ministry of Education are taking the necessary steps for extending the mother tongue teaching (Italian and Macedonian languages classes/ groups). In the context of rationalizing spending in the field of education, which comprised also reorganization of some schools, the organizations of national minorities have intervened with a view of maintaining the classes/groups of instruction in or teaching of minority languages.

- Due to the last years' economic crisis, it was impossible to increase the general budget for education, and some older problems of the system remained (providing qualified teachers for minority classes or textbooks in minority languages).

- The Romanian authorities have continued to focus on the participation of persons belonging to national minorities in public life, both at central and local levels. Although in 2008 the vote system has changed (a majority system was adopted), affirmative measures to support numerically small minorities were maintained, so that the 18 organizations (except the Hungarian organization) of the national minorities continue to be represented in the Chamber of Deputies in the new mandate, through reserved seats. The Hungarian minority gained 9 senator and 22 deputy seats, maintaining its weight and active presence in politics. Roma were more active locally and obtained superior results in local elections in 2008. They are directly involved in the work of the National Agency for Roma, they are present in the structure of the National Council Against Discrimination, the Ombudsman, the prefectures, town halls etc. With regard to pluralism within the minority, it should also be mentioned that other groups than the minority parties in Parliament – The Hungarian Civic Party, the Alliance for Unity of Roma of and the Democratic Union of Ukrainians in Romania - were successful in local elections. The Democratic Union of Hungarians in Romania, the representative in Parliament of the largest minority in Romania, is itself a pluralist conglomerate of hundreds of formations and different platforms guidelines, which establish their responsibilities and manage their resources in a democratic manner. The Department for Interethnic Relations has contacts with other minority organizations and, as they apply for funds on specific projects, they are supported as any other organization;

- The National Authority for Properties' Restitution took action during the last years for accelerating the claimed buildings' restitution process and for indemnifying those entitled, in a reasonable period of time, according to the European Court of Human Rights. The minorities and religious denominations continue to be part of this process.

- The Ministry of Administration and Interior (MAI) extended and diversified the reform measures, including the development of programs financed with European funds. A special attention is paid to the decentralization process and to the

process including delegating responsibilities to local authorities in multi-ethnic regions too.

- The draft law on the status of national minorities has not been finalized yet. The discussions in the parliamentary commissions of the Chamber of Representatives continue..

b). Article by article presentation of the measures taken with regard to the application of the *Framework Convention*

Art. 3. Scope of application

The national minorities protected by Romania according to the stipulations of the Framework Convention remained the same as reported previously. At the general elections of November 30, 2008, the minority candidates have obtained a large number of votes, which ensured the parliamentary representation of all 19 organizations. There were cases, always in the months preceding the parliamentary elections, when new NGOs claiming to represent minority groups were set up. Their lack of activity in the intervals between the elections gives way to the interpretation that they solely aimed at benefiting from the generous provisions of the law – inter alia, parliamentary seats, budgetary allocations – without an adequate ability to represent the mentioned community, and sometimes lacking a true relationship to it. Maintaining its flexibility regarding the scope of the *Framework Convention*, the Romanian authorities tried to avoid, through regulations regarding the representation of national minorities, the proliferation of minority organizations, which would have otherwise undermined the true aim of its policies in the field.

The last census recorded 1266 persons declaring their Csángó identity, of which 491 lived in cities and towns and 775 villages. Out of the 1266 Csángó, 307 people identified Hungarian as their mother tongue, whereas the others chose Romanian, Romany or other languages. According to the same census, out of the total of 1266 Csángó, 1106 are Roman-Catholics, 127 are Greek-Orthodox, whereas the rest belong to other religions/cults. It is important to note that, although largely Roman-Catholic, the Csángó cannot be confused or equated with all Roman-Catholics in Moldova, which constitute a diverse group, with older religious traditions. The main Catholic groups in Moldova are the Romanian, Polish, Italian, and German groups, some originating from the Kingdom of Poland, the Holy See, and Hungary's influence during the Middle-Ages. Historical sources note the presence of official representatives of the Pope and the Polish church hierarchy among the Catholic communities in Iasi, Bacau and other centers. Moldova's rulers have maintained close political ties with the centers of Catholicism.

The organization that promotes the Hungarian language as Csángó's mother tongue is the Association of Csángó-Hungarians in Moldova, which has about 200 members and permanently collaborates with DUHR and other Hungarian organizations. This association is financially supported to carry out its specific goals by the *Communitas* Foundation, an organization that managed the state budget funds for the Hungarian community until 2009. Due to this support, trainings, study and cultural youth camps, events related to traditional or religious holidays, and other programs in Hungarian were organized every year. The Csángó-Hungarians Association in Moldova received support for some activities from the Department for Interethnic Relations. For example, in 2008, the department has financed the purchase of 950 copies of the *Collection of Literary Texts for Csángó Children* (Szöveggyűjtemény Csángó gyerekek magyar számára), published in two volumes. The volumes have been provided to schools where the pupils study the Hungarian language. The amount of the financial support was of 35.150 lei.

On the other hand, the Romanian Association of Roman Catholics in Moldavia "Dumitru Martinaş" considers that the use of the term "Csango" in order to identify the whole catholic population in the Eastern part of Romania is malevolent as the history, the language and the popular culture certifies the Romanian origin of the Catholics in Eastern part of the country, in this context, it is not possible to talk about an ethnical minority of the Csango in Moldavia, but, at most, about a religious minority of the Roman Catholics. The Association recognises the rights of the persons assuming a different identity, as the ones considers themselves Hungarian Csango or Hungarians, but they do not agree with the extrapolation of this isolated state of fact to the entire Roman Catholic community in the Eastern part of the country.

Related to Aromanian community, the Romanian authorities intensified the dialogue with the Aromanian associations and discussions were held also in inter-agency reunions.

The result of these discussions was that the majority of the associations and foundations of the Aromanian community in Romania, consider that the Aromanian culture is part of the Romanian cultural heritage and the Aromanian is a dialect of the Romanian language. In their view, the claims that Aromanians are a minority bring harm to Romania and to the Romanian communities abroad. In February 2008, the Government of Romania has adopted a Memorandum detailing an official point of view. The document was initiated by the Department for Interethnic Relations, together with the Department for Relations with Romanians Abroad of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (this department manages the relation with the Aromanians from abroad), the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Education, as well as the Romanian Academy and the National History Museum. The document takes into consideration the option of the majority of the Aromanian community in Romania. In their view, the recent demarche pleading for the status of national minority for Aromanians could signify an attempt to deny a traditional identity assumed by the respective community, as the denomination of Aromanian represents a part of the Romanian identity.

On the other hand it must be stressed that Aromanians in Romania are not deprived of support in maintaining and expressing their distinct linguistic and cultural

characteristics: the Ministry of Education, Research and Innovation came to meet the desire of the Aromanian dialect speakers to preserve it, together with specific elements of folklore and ethnography. Thus, the Ministry of Education has decided that at primary, secondary and high school, notions of Aromanian culture and traditions can be optionally studied. In this regard, the Minister of Education issued the Order (no. 1513/ 2007) on "approving an optional curriculum about the *Aromanian culture and traditions*, for the primary, secondary, high school"⁶. These courses are organized in the Constanța County.

The Ministry of Culture was directly involved in the preservation, conservation, development and promotion of the values and cultural heritage of the Aromanians. Thus, the Ministry has approved and supported the initiative of the "Mușeata Armână" Foundation from the Mihail Kogălniceanu village, Constanța county, on setting up the Aromanians Museum - "George Celea" – which has about 1465 exhibits that illustrate the customs and traditional crafts of Aromanians; the National Museum of the Village "Dimitrie Gusti" from Bucharest organizes annual meetings of the Aromanian communities from Romania and develops a directory of collections of objects belonging to the Aromanians, as a result of field research; artistic folklore bands of Aromanians were present in the events held within the *European Year of Intercultural Dialogue* (2008), appeared on TV and on the stages of ethnic festivals funded by the Ministry of Culture (for an example, "ProEtnica" in Sighișoara). The Ministry has subsidized the publishing of the magazines "Armânimea" and "Deșteptarea aromânilor" of the Foundation "Dimândarea părintească." Since 2006, the subsidies attributed to all cultural publications, and hence the magazines "Armânimea" and "Deșteptarea Aromânilor", are managed by the National Cultural Fund Administration. Beyond that, the ministry has offered the publishers the possibility to submit applications for participating in the National Program for Acquisition of books and subscriptions to magazines, which is organized annually⁷. Aromanians were present with programs at the Romanian Peasant Museum in Bucharest on the occasion of the events related to 2008 - *European Year of Intercultural Dialogue*, have appeared on public radio and TV, received support from local forums to organize various cultural activities (especially in Bucharest and the region of Dobrogea, where they are most numerous).

It should also be mentioned that, in 2008, one of the main associations of the Aromanians in Romania, the Cultural Macedo-Romanian Society (Bucharest), has been granted public utility status, according to Government Decision no. 473 / 2008. This status is not only recognition of the social importance of the activities of the association, but also a tool facilitating access to resources for cultural projects.

A recent phenomenon (occurred in the last 10 to 15 years) is the obtaining of Romanian citizenship by young people who complete their studies, who have a business or who get married in Romania. Some have joined minority organizations, based on language and cultural ties. An example of this is that of the Albanian community, which tends to increase thanks to new arrivals.

⁶ www.edu.ro

⁷ According to the data sent by the Ministry of Culture and Cult

No difficulties concerning citizenship for any community members were reported. There are people who hold double citizenship within certain communities - Italian, Croatian, Jewish, and Greek - but their number is relatively small.

Collecting Statistic Data

Romania, as member state of the European Union, adopted the European legislation in the field of statistics, as well as the UN and EUROSTAT recommendations on people and housing censuses. According to these regulations the member states have the obligation of making censuses at the beginning of each decade. The first census of this decade will take place on October 22 – 31, 2011.

The main regulations that provide the legal framework for the next population and housing census are: the Regulation no.763/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Population and Housing Census, published in JOL 218 on August 13, 2008; the Government's Emergency Ordinance no. 20/2010 modifying the first article of Government's Emergency Ordinance no.36/2007 regarding the population and housing census in Romania in 2011; the Government's Decision no.1502/2009 on organizing and carrying out the population and housing census in Romania in 2011.

The standard forms to be used at the census are available on the web page of the Statistics National Institute (www.insse.ro), for public consultation. The form for data collecting includes the section "Ethno-cultural characteristics", which stipulates that "each person has the right to have its own option, without any constraint". The chapter includes questions on ethnic belonging, mother tongue and religion for each individual. DUHR, the organization representing the main national minority in Romania, was consulted on these issues and was directly involved in the activity of the national commission for preparing the census.

It is expected that this census would register more precisely and in detail the data on minorities, would more accurately reflect the demographic situation in country's regions.

Efforts were made by national minority organizations to encourage their members to overcome reluctance and declare their ethnicity. Internal estimates sometimes display different results from those recorded by the census.

Regarding this aspect, in their responses to the Department for Interethnic Relations, the minority organizations have communicated the following information and assessments:

1. The Democratic Hungarian Union from Romania

The Hungarians⁸ in Romania represent one of the largest ethnic minorities in Romania. According to the official data of the 2002 census, 1,431,807 people, 6.6% of the population, were said to be Hungarian

⁸ Data sent to the DIR by the Research Center for Interethnic Relations and by the Institute for Studying the National Minorities' Problems

There are no other unofficial statistics on the number of members, geographical areas, branches, etc. than those of the census of 2002.

In the last 18 years the Hungarian population in Romania has been in a pronounced decline, amid the general decline of population. According to the studies conducted by ISPMN in 2008, the specific mechanisms causing the decline are:

- the aging of the Hungarian population, mainly due to the large emigration of 1980-1990, and also due to the fact that the Hungarian women's fertility was below the national average;
- joint family situation: only 33% of children raised in mixed families are identified with the Hungarian community and 66% by the Romanian majority.

2. The Democratic Forum of Germans in Romania

The Democratic Forum of Germans (FDGR) from Arad sent data on the German population in the Arad County. The 2002 census recorded 4000 ethnic Germans in the Arad County. FDGR Arad claims that the number of people belonging to the German minority has dropped during the last 6 years, but no exact indication was provided. Records kept by the High School "Adam Muller Guttenbrunn" state that 17% of students reported German as their native language.⁹

3. "PRO EUROPE" Roma Party¹⁰

In Romania, there are nearly 30 subgroups of Roma ("vătrași", „căldărari”, „rudari”, „spoitori”, „mătăsari”, „ursari”, „căramidari”, „gabori”, „florari”, „lăutari”, „ciubotari”, „argintari”, „pieptănari”, „corturari – nomazi”, „lăieși”, „cocalari”, „tismănari”, „fulgari”, „zlătari”, „cositorari”, „răcari”, „bidineri”, „geambași”, „ciurari”, etc.).

There were always conflicting opinions about the number of Roma in Romania. According to the results of a research conducted in 1998 by the Institute for the Study of the Quality of Life, the number of Roma in Romania has been:

- 1930: 242,656 (1.70%)
- 1956: 104,216 (0.60%)
- 1966: 64,197 (0.37%)
- 1977: 227,398 (1.05%)
- 1992: 409,723 (1.76%)
- 2002: 535,250 (2.5%)

The Roma Party emphasizes the huge discrepancy between the number of Roma (104,216) registered by the census in 1956 (the first after the deportation of Roma in Transnistria during World War II, where about 19,000 have died) and the number registered in 1966. This decrease has no other cause, according to the Roma Party's point of view, than manipulating statistics. In 1977, the census acknowledged a total of 227,398 Roma, whereas 3 years later the official number grew to 260,000. In 1992, the census counted 409,723 Roma. This represents an increase of 80.2% compared to 1977 census.

⁹ Data sent to the DIR by the Democratic Forum of Germans in Arad

¹⁰ Data sent to the DIR by the PRO EUROPE Roma Party

A 1998 study of the Institute for the Study of the Quality of Life issued the following conclusion: Roma people are a young population with a fertility rate which is twice that of the majority (Institute for the Study of the Quality of Life, 2000).

One factor that has great influence on demographics is access to healthcare. Prevention and health education have low rates among the Roma. Marriages, especially in communities that adopt the traditional style of life, tend to occur at a much lower age than the standard average, hence an increased rate of birth (birth rate is twice the national level), but also high rates of premature birth and infant mortality.

Childhood diseases are also an important problem, as many Roma refrain from taking their children to the hospital, while knowledge of the importance of vaccination is poor. Respiratory and heart diseases are frequent among Roma, smoking is widespread even among children, and poor living conditions contribute to health problems. Roma life expectancy in Romania is 15-20 years less than the average (50-55 years).

4. The Union of Serbs in Romania¹¹

According to the censuses in 1992 and 2002, the number of Serbs from Romania has decreased with 22.47%. A large number of Serbs live in Arad, Caras-Severin, Mehedinti and Timis counties.

The Union of Serbs in Romania notes that most Serbs live in Timisoara (6271 people according to the 2002 census). The statistics by sex and age show that women are at a slight advantage. By age, the active population is 58.40%, children represent 10.76%, and elders make up 30.84%.

5. The Armenian Union of Romania¹²

According to the census of 2002, there are 1780 Armenians in Romania. Internal statistics of the Armenian Union of Romania claim that there are 7000 ethnic Armenians. Most of them live in Bucharest, Constanta, Iasi, Botosani, Suceava, Roman (North of Moldova), Cluj, Gherla, Dumbrăveni (Transylvania), as well as the cities of Pitesti, Bacau, Galati, Braila and Tulcea. The statistics are not official, but the data is based on the lists of parishioners from Armenian churches and on the lists of the Armenian Union of Romania. A number of Armenians, who emigrated from Armenia in the last 10 years, are about to acquire Romanian citizenship (their number amounts to approx. 100 persons).

6. The Democratic Union of Turkish-Muslim Tatars in Romania (UDTTMR)¹³

The Democratic Union of Turkish-Muslim Tatars in Romania states that there was no restriction, in the past or today, regarding the free choice of identity within their ethnic group. In the past 20 years, the Tatar ethnic group remained constant. Internal

¹¹ Data sent to the DIR by the Union of Serbs in Romania

¹² Data sent to the DIR by the Armenian Union of Romania

¹³ Data sent to the DIR by the Democratic Union of Turkish-Muslim Tatars in Romania

estimates show the existence of a population of about 35,000 Tatars (Imams statistics).

90% of Tatars live in Dobrogea, 10% in Bucharest, Galati, Braila, Brasov etc. Of the total Tatar population, $\frac{3}{4}$ lives in Constanta County (almost 28,000).

UDTTMR has offices in 31 cities: the main and largest communities are in Constanta, Medgidia, Mangalia, Valu lui Traian, Cobadin, Tulcea, and Basarab. According to the internal statistics the ratio of men/women and children/adults/elderly are balanced. Men/women ratio is 50%-50%. UDTTMR holds that there is a slight advantage in terms of the adult population.

7. The Democratic Union of Turks in Romania¹⁴

The Democratic Union of Turks in Romania estimates the number of ethnic Turks to about 40.000 persons according to their internal, informal statistics. According to the 2002 census 33.000 persons declared themselves ethnic Turks. The majority of the ethnic Turks in Romania are concentrated in Dobrogea region (in Constanta and Tulcea counties). The Democratic Union of Turks in Romania has about 40 branches, mostly in Constanta and Tulcea counties but also in Bucharest, Calarasi, Braila and Galati. All ethnic Turks in Romania, members of the Turkish historical community from Romania, have Romanian citizenship.

8. The Union of Ukrainians in Romania¹⁵

The number of the Ukrainian population in Romania, according to the census of 2002, is about 62,000 ethnic Ukrainians. They mostly reside in the Northern and Eastern part of Romania.

9. The Cultural Union of Ruthenians in Romania¹⁶

At the 2002 census, only 262 people identified as Ruthenians, which in the opinion of the Cultural Union of Ruthenians in Romania does not represent their exact number. The Cultural Union of Ruthenians from Romania blames the situation on a historic mistake occurred after the Second World War, when Ruthenians were registered as Ukrainians in the census. Based on their internal estimates and studies, there are nearly 10,000 Ruthenians in Romania.

10. The Union of Poles in Romania "Dom Polski"¹⁷

"Dom Polski" states that, during the 2005-2009, the number of ethnic Poles did not suffered major changes. According to the internal estimates of "Dom Polski", there are about 9.000-9.200 Poles. Most people of Polish ethnicity live in Suceava, where three villages are mostly Polish (Solonețu Nou, Poiana Micului and Plesa), while in other localities Poles represent a percentage of over 20% of the population - Cacica, Moara, Vișani. About 7,000 citizens of Polish origin live in Suceava County. Apart

¹⁴ Data sent to the DIR by the Democratic Union of Turks in Romania

¹⁵ Data sent to the DIR by the Union of Ukrainians in Romania

¹⁶ Data sent to the DIR by the Cultural Union of Ruthenians in Romania

¹⁷ Data sent to the DIR by the Union of Poles "Dom Polski" in Romania

from Suceava, other clusters of Romanian citizens of Polish origin are in Bucharest, Iasi, Timisoara, Constanta, Cluj-Napoca, Lupeni, Sibiu, and Bacau. A total of 40 people have double citizenship, Romanian and Polish. The Union of Poles in Romania, including 14 local associations, counts 6000 members.

11. The Union of Bulgarians from Banat - Romania¹⁸

At the 1992 census, 9851 Romanian citizens identified as ethnic Bulgarians; at the 2002 census, 8025 people declared themselves as such. The Union of Bulgarians from Banat - Romania stresses that the Bulgarian population decreased by 1826 people from 1992 to 2002; but, reported to the progress of Romania's population on the whole, the percentage of population which is ethnic Bulgarian was 0.04% both in 1992 and in 2002. In this regard, it can be concluded that the percentage of ethnic Bulgarians remained constant over the period 1992 to 2002. A number of 6868 ethnic Bulgarians are concentrated in the counties of Timis and Arad, 63.7% of ethnic Bulgarians live in rural areas and the remaining 36.3% in urban areas.

12. The Community of Lippovan - Russians in Romania¹⁹

In the last census (2002), 36,397 people declared themselves Lippovan Russians. Regarding their general distribution, the census shows a massive concentration of Lippovans in Dobrogea, representing about 2/3 of the total number. The second large region is Moldova, the number of Lippovans approaching 1/5 of the total population living in the region. Muntenia cumulates a percentage of 0.06% and the other regions have a low weight. Thus, the largest communities of Lippovan – Russians live in the Eastern part of Romania.

The new socio-economic conditions have influenced the migration of young people from rural to urban areas. Unofficial data shows that Lippovan Russians are Romanian citizens and none of them has Russian citizenship.

13. The Federation of Jewish Communities in Romania²⁰

The Federation of Jewish Communities in Romania declares that the Jewish identity is assumed by those persons that consider themselves ethnically connected to the Hebrew. In most cases there is a direct relationship between the Hebrew identity and the Mosaic religious membership. There are no other statistics in Romania, with reference to Jews, other than the population censuses (the last one in 2002), registering 5870 ethnic Jews and 6179 people belonging to the Mosaic religion. In terms of the Mosaic canons, a person is a Jewish man/woman, if his/her mother was Jewish.

Adherence to the Jewish community in Romania is done on a voluntary basis; both Jews in the spirit of mosaic faith as well as on the grounds of Hebrew descent or mixed ethnic belonging are admitted. The Federation of Hebrew Communities in Romania has 9124 members. 1% of them have dual citizenship - Israeli and Romanian.

¹⁸ Data sent to the DIR by the Union Bulgarians from Banat - Romania

¹⁹ Data sent to the DIR by the Lippovan - Russians Community of Romania

²⁰ Data sent to the DIR by the Federation of Jew Communities in Romania

14. The Union of Croats in Romania²¹

To the 1992 census, more than 50% of the Croatian community members chose to declare themselves as ethnic Croats (about 4000) and less than 50% have adopted the topogenetic option of Caraşovenian (about 3000). In the 2002 census, almost 99% of the community members declared themselves as Croatian and a very low percentage of 1% declared to be Caraşovenian.

The community members mainly live in two counties of Romania: Caraş-Severin and Timis. In Caraş-Severin they are located in two territorial units: Caraşova and Lupac, plus approx. 400 persons in the city of Reşiţa (approx. 6700 people). In Timis County, Croats live in the towns of Recaş, Timişoara and the village of Checea (about 300 persons).

15. The Association of Macedonians in Romania²²

The number of ethnic Macedonians living in Romania was estimated unofficially at 15,000 people by the Association of Macedonians in Romania. The information related to the Macedonian emigration into Romania obtained from the national archives of Romania and Macedonia as well as the social dynamics of the geopolitical area was taken into account to obtain this figure. So far no statistics by geographical area, age or men/women ratio were conducted in regard of the number of ethnic Macedonians.

16. The League of Albanians in Romania²³

According to the League of Albanians, Romanian citizens of ethnic Albanian origin preferred to identify as Romanians at census, which explains the small number of ethnic Albanians recorded. In addition to the negative influence of the communist era, the Kosovo conflict has also influenced the official statistics. The association claims that the number of Albanians in Romania is higher than 4000. Albanians in Romania are dispersed, especially in the South of Banat, Oltenia, Muntenia, Dobrogea, but also in Transylvania and Moldova.

17. The Hellenic Union of Romania²⁴

There are 22 traditional Greek communities living in Romania, scattered all over the country. According to informal estimates of the Hellenic Union of Romania, there are 14,000 ethnic Greeks in Romania. In the 2002 census, 6472 people declared themselves ethnic Greeks. The distribution in communities shows a higher percentage in the Danube - Black Sea area, followed by large cities such as Bucharest, Iasi, Ploiesti, etc. Regarding the distribution by age and sex, the Hellenic Union of Romania analyzed a community, the Hellenic Branch of Bucharest, and found that the results expressed in percentages are representative of the minority: of the total membership, 10.66% are preschool, 14.66% are students, 36.45% adults, 38.33%

²¹ Data sent to the DIR by the Union of Croats in Romania

²² Data sent to the DIR by the Association of Macedonians in Romania

²³ Data sent to the DIR by the League of Albanians in Romania

²⁴ Data sent to the DIR by the Hellenic Union of Romania

elderly, 60% women and 40% are men. Regarding citizenship, the Hellenic Union of Romania estimated that 11.2% of the ethnic Greeks have both Greek and Romanian citizenship.

18. The Italian Community in Romania RO.AS.IT ²⁵

The Association of Italians in Romania RO.AS.IT states that over the past three years it registered a large number of Italian immigrants, who relocated from Italy to Romania. In 2002 there were 3,300 Italians, and today about 100,000 Italians live in the country, but not all of them are members of the Italian Community in Romania.

19. The Democratic Union of Slovaks and Czechs in Romania

According to the official data of the 2002 census, in Romania, 3941 persons declared themselves as Czechs, of which 3306 persons declared Czech language as their mother tongue. The Czech minority is centred in Caraş Severin and Mehedinţi counties. In Caraş Severin county most representative locations are Gârnic, Sfânta Elena, Ravensca, Bigăr, and, in Mehedinţi county most representative location is Eibenthal. In public life, the Czechs are represented by the Democratic Union of Slovaks and Czechs in Romania, which promotes both the interests of the Czech minority and of the Slovak minority. The Union has one representative in the Parliament of Romania, which represents both communities.

To the 2002 Census, 17 199 persons declared themselves Slovaks and 16 108 persons declared that the Slovak language is their mother tongue. The Slovak minority is centred in Arad, Bihor, Sălaj and Timiş counties. Since their arrival, about 200 years ago, the Slovaks maintained their language and traditions, a central role having the family, the church and the school. The most significant number of Slovak population is in Nădlac town in Arad county, where there are also the headquarters of the Democratic Union of Slovaks and Czechs in Romania.

Article 4. Equality and Non-Discrimination

Recently, there has been a case of discrimination against Romanians, due to which the Covasna County Council has been sanctioned by the National Council for Combating Discrimination. The Covasna County Council received a warning because Hungarian language was introduced as eligibility criteria for the post of director of Covasna County Library (quote from *Divers* electronic magazine, January 2009). Analyzing the situation, the National Council for Combating Discrimination found that in case of a position that required direct contact with the public such requirement would have been justified. But the position of library director is a management activity that does not require knowledge of Hungarian language.

²⁵ Data sent to the DIR by the Italian Community in Romania RO.AS.IT

During 2010, the National Council for the Fight against Discrimination received 478 petitions from which 98 targeted minorities' issues (ethnicity 55; nationality 42; race 1)

Some organizations of minorities reported a number of situations and circumstances which they consider discriminatory based on ethnic criteria, but generally they emphasize that they intervened and addressed promptly to relevant institutions to find a solution. For example:

The Jewish Communities Federation of Romania reported the case of a person who was treated improperly by a doctor in a hospital from Galati. The patient was physically and verbally abused, being called "jidan", a pejorative term for Jew. A condemnable incident occurred on October 2008, when the Giurgiu Hebrew Cemetery from Bucharest was desecrated; 131 graves were destroyed and desecrated, some of them of spiritual and artistic value. The Federation addressed the competent public authorities. Police investigations are ongoing.

The Bulgarian Union of Banat - Romania was confronted with the exclusion from the Denta local council program in Timis County in 2007. The entire community was excluded from the contents of the official document entitled "Sustainable Development Strategy of Denta Village for the period of 2007 to 2013". The Union protested and demanded annulment of the document and its adoption in other form which includes the Bulgarian community as well. If the situation will not be resolved, the organization will appeal to justice.

The Union of Croats in Romania reports more cases of discrimination:

An ethnic Croat professor was denied the right to participate in a job contest for the position of director in a school of Caras Severin. The case has been referred to the legal department and then to the Court of Appeal in Timisoara. The courts ruled in favor of the person, but did not remedy the situation by organizing another session of the contest. Consequently, the professor has submitted a complaint to the European Court of Human Rights. The decision is pending.

Another case reported the lack of concern of local authorities to repair and maintain County road nr. 581A; this is the only access road in the area of Caraşova, where 90% of the population are ethnic Croats. The leadership of the Union is striving to solve this problem through dialogue with the authorities.

The Lupac school centre has decided the fusion of primary school classes (coming from small schools) due to budgetary constraints, which may lead, in the opinion of the Union, to the dispersion of the children and to the loss of teaching units in Croat language.

Pro Europe Roma Party indicates a special situation: economically, the Roma community is not very developed. If before 1989 the majority of Roma were employed in agriculture, forestry, construction, food industry, by the end of this centralized economy the number of unemployed increased dramatically. The proportion of active population among the Roma is very close to the value recorded in the total population (60.2% versus 63.3% in 1998 - National Commission for Statistics, 1998). Nevertheless, the percentage of employed among the Roma is significantly less. Discrimination appears in the field of employment, while legislation in this area is considered deficient. One of the most problematic areas is

discrimination by employers, sometimes visible in job offers which explicitly exclude Roma. The cases of discrimination are monitored by the Roma associations, and some organizations offer legal support and advice for those discriminated.

Programs developed by authorities in the fight against discrimination

Authorities are called to ensure a continuous monitoring of the cases of discriminatory practices or attitudes against the Roma. Consequently, they have to intensify activities in order to raise awareness and the level of information on this topic.

The campaign “Stop Prejudices against Roma Minority” (SPER) took place during 2007-2008, financed through the PHARE program and implemented by the General Secretariat of the Government and ANR. In May 2008, the campaign was awarded a prize at the Civil Society Gala.

During August 2008 - August 2009, ANR has implemented the campaign “DOSTA! /Enough!: Pass over prejudices, discover Roma”, with the support of the Council of Europe. This communication and awareness campaign focused on the fight against prejudices and stereotypes through bringing together Roma and non-Roma. It was the first awareness campaign on Roma at European level, and Romania was the first EU country that implemented it.

The information and awareness campaign on human rights “C.R.E.D” (Romanian Citizens – equal in rights) was organized by *Pro Europe* Roma Party, with the support of ANR. The campaign was launched on April 8, 2010, on the occasion of celebrating Roma International Day.

Aiming at the elimination of media stereotypes against Roma, the Association *Pro Europe* Roma Party is developing the “Roma Caravan” and “Different, but together” broadcasts.

The history of segregation and of the desegregation measures

During 2003-2004, the Roma organizations from Romania stepped up their activities to identify, investigate and report to the Ministry of Education cases of segregation of Roma children in kindergartens and schools.

After July 2007 the Ministry of Education, Research and Youth, through the Department of Pre-university Education UIP PHARE and the Education Department for Minority Languages and Relations with Parliament, asked the County School Inspectorates (CSI) to identify segregation situations, accompanied by desegregation plans.

In April 2008, IPU PHARE developed an initial working document that included the CSI reports regarding segregation and the measures that were to be taken in order to stop this phenomenon.

Additionally, various non-governmental organizations and researchers have developed a series of reports on segregation in schools and kindergartens, as well as the efforts of desegregation undertaken by school units.

The Ministry of Education, Research and Innovation, through the State Secretariat for Education in Minority Languages and Relations with Parliament, initiated a series of activities regarding the finding, monitoring and ending the existing segregation situations, as well as the prevention of the segregation at the beginning of education cycles (in the first, fifth and ninth grades).

Article 5. State support for cultural preservation of national minorities

For the Department for Interethnic Relations, 2005-2008 was a period of developing good practices in support and promotion of the culture of the 20 minority groups in Romania. Means of support were diversified and adapted to cultivation of multiculturalism and the connections between cultures. In this sense, the mission, vision and goals became more specific, meanwhile the number of programs (organized independently or in partnership) and activities based on projects funded have increased (by 245%), and the scope of action and target groups have been extended.

The information received from national minority organizations did not allow the preparation of accurate statistics on the calendar and the typology of their actions, but it can be noted that the proportion spent on cultural activities of the total annual appropriations from the state budget varies from about 5%²⁶ to 60.93%²⁷.

The topics of the programs were more oriented towards strengthening ethnic diversity and increasing public awareness of cultural minorities. Programs that have greater cultural, educational and social impact were implemented. A new approach is present that transcends the common festivals containing only elements of presentation of costumes, dances and songs, to renewed and remodeled programs that present other facets of cultural minorities. The current concerns are focused on support for culture and education, integration and acquisition of skills needed to manage the problems of minorities in the context of the new European reality, by organizing summer schools, courses and various organizational management programs for the youth of national minorities.

• Promotion, maintaining and development of minority culture

The importance given to culture through the DIR programs contributes to the cultural diversity in Romania. The links created between the minorities and the majority contributes to the development of interethnic dialogue. These cultural exchanges provide for direct access to the culture of minorities, a chance for promotion and mobility of minority professionals and artists, but also initiate joint projects ("Cohabitations" Interethnic Festival, ProETNICA, "Window to us - dialogue in multiethnic communities, "Culture brings us closer", "Image of the other one and communication in local communities," "CultFest - Cultural Diversity

²⁶ Data sent to the DIR by the Italian Community in Romania RO.AS.IT

²⁷ Data sent to the DIR by *Communitas*, the organization that managed the budget given to the Hungarian community through the Council of National Minorities

Festival", "Interethnic Arts Dialogue", "Diversity Week", "Unity in Cultural Diversity").

One of the projects of great impact was "The Caravan of Intercultural Dialogue", held in 2008, in partnership with the European Commission, with the objective of understanding the important concepts related to minorities by the youth. Several stages of this program were organized in different regions of the country, consisting of contests and games focusing on knowledge of minority rights, traditions and culture of national minorities in our country.

DIR has supported and initiated media information and awareness campaigns regarding minorities' culture: "Know the Roma before you judge them!" (In the form of 5 documentaries focusing on Roma problems, presented and discussed on television by Roma and non-Roma public figures); a photo exhibition "Come closer!" which marked the opening of summer school "The Roma in the Romanian contemporary society", the program "Holocaust in pictures and testimonials", etc.

Acquisition, editing, printing, translation and dissemination of written material and audio-video is another priority, based on the need of minorities to be supported through the promotion, maintaining and development of their culture. This aid is particularly important for small minorities which are the most vulnerable. Among them we often see elderly members and face the non-involvement of young people, thus the support from the DIR is also a way to store and save information that otherwise would be lost.

Each minority group publishes its own brochure, generally monthly and in a bilingual edition. They are important publications for information on broadcasts and current activities, but also for the public who is interested in this topic.

The DIR constantly contributes to the acquisition and distribution of textbooks in minority languages and the completion, printing and translation of various materials and publications. Examples: editing the volume of cultural studies "Promoting interethnic relations through culture", "Panorama of education for national minorities in Romania between 2003 - 2006", "Ethnic Diversity Guide of the City of Tulcea", "Legal, Economic and Business Trilingual Dictionary", editing music albums, movie documentary "Minority in the perspective of civil organizations", "EU-ETHNIC - Identity Beyond Words", the organization of movie library of the Association "The League of Albanians in Romania", "The Movie show of the Serbian Diaspora" etc.

The Armenian Union of Romania and The Jewish Communities Federation of Romania are two of the most prolific book publishers, e.g., the number of volumes published in 2005-2008 in the Hasefer Publishing House of the Jewish Communities Federation, from the budget funds was of 114 titles published in 53.388 copies.

Meeting the invitations of various wards, book fairs and the press, the DIR ensures active participation of minorities in these events, giving them the opportunity to establish new contacts and partnerships and to increase the market for distribution of editorial products. The most important events of this kind are "The book and press fair" and "the Gaudeamus Fair".

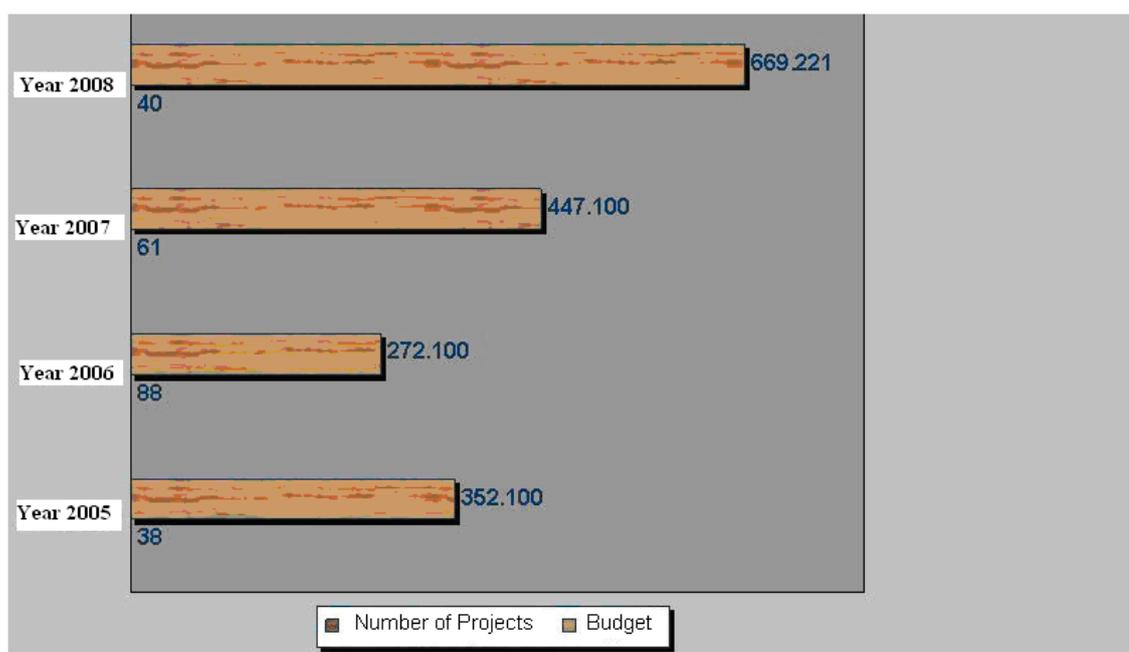
Another component of support for minority cultures is the organizing and funding of seminars and training programs: the international conference "From multicultural to intercultural dialogue", a seminar on the Charter of Languages - support for multilingualism and intercultural communication in Romania; the seminar entitled "National minorities in European perspective"; "Reflecting ethno-cultural diversity in the media in Romania"; historical musicology symposium "Music - intercultural dialogue"; intercultural education training for middle school/high school teachers; journalism courses for national minority representatives and editors; conflict mediation training "Stop conflicts! Free transit in intercultural coexistence", etc.

The artistic and cultural events - as most important forms of knowledge of the minority culture - conducted by the DIR, take various forms: cultural meetings, concerts, dance, theater, cinema, exhibitions. Examples: "The Theater Festival of National Minorities", "The International Festival of Puppet Theater", "Culture serving ethnic relations", "Old Music Festival", "The Interethnic Film Week", "The International Short film festival ALTER - NATIVE"; "The Interethnic Festival of Documentary and Anthropology Films"; "The International Salon of Photographic Art", "The Meeting of ethnic fanfares", "The Caravan of European Dance", the Festival of cultural diversity "Community equinox ", " Poles in Bukovina ", "The Spiritual treasures of the Serbs in Romania", the exhibition" Presence of the German minority in Dobrogea", "Give it a chance and see the miracle" - the exhibition for people with disabilities organized by the Hungarian Foundation "Communitas".

The Ministry of Culture and National Heritage developed, also, a multitude of projects and programs:

Programs, projects and cultural activities of national minorities in Romania financed by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage through Cultural Diversity Department

Comparative analysis of the amounts allocated and the number of activities



The strategy of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage in this area is based on the stipulations of the Governance Program, the principles mentioned by the revised Constitution, the Universal Declaration of human rights and fundamental freedoms of all people irrespective of race, sex, language and religion, the Declaration on rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities (1993), Framework Convention for the protection of national minorities of the Council of Europe (1995), the Charter of Paris for a New Europe (1990), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages (2007).

The application and implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in Romania, from the cultural point of view, took into account the free expression of ethnic, cultural, linguistic minorities in Romania, promoting the spirit of tolerance, mutual respect and dialogue between cultures, by carrying out two cultural programs:

- Proetnicultura – a framework program for all national minorities in Romania,
- The Roma together for Europe – program designed in accordance to the Annual Action Plan to implement the General Plan of Measures of the Government Strategy for improving the situation of Roma

Besides this two programs mentioned above, in 2008, 22 projects were funded after winning the selection of applications submitted to the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and undertaken by the Department of International and Intercultural Relations (then called the Department of Cultural Diversity) within the *2008 - European Year of Intercultural Dialogue* Program, which had a total budget of 302.995 lei.

These projects which supported cultural folklore, festivals, other forms of expression, specific initiatives and the national minorities, were proposed and carried out mostly by non-governmental organizations of national minorities in Romania. Their partners were guests and participants from other countries, representatives of similar organizations in other European countries signatories to the framework Convention for the protection of national minorities, representatives of international organizations competent in this area.

The vision of promoting dialogue between cultures, ethnic diversity and interdisciplinary interaction in the assertion of ethnic identity through the capitalization of movable and immovable cultural heritage and using contemporary and traditional means of expression has been put together in a creative and comprehensive way in the ProEtnica Festival - Interethnic Festival in Sighisoara Organized annually by the Educational Center for Youth.

ProEtnica gathered since 2001 more than 6,000 participants from ethnic communities in Romania. For that reason, it is seen today as an agora of intercultural dialogue, not only in Sighisoara, but even beyond the Romanian space.

The institutional framework is provided by central and local public institutions, NGOs, cultural centers, universities, museums, linguists and specialists that are working systematically or occasionally. The fundamental objective is to continue

intercultural dialogue and maintaining cultural identity, linguistic and religious of each minority in Romania.

An important role in the Ministry of Culture's activity was played by a series of cooperation projects with governmental institutions or NGOs of the national minorities emigrated from Romania in their countries of origin.

We mention here the Protocol for the period 2004 - 2008 between the Ministry of Culture, Satu Mare District Museum of History and ethno-cultural Institute of Danubian Swabians from Tübingen (I.I.E.Ş.D.). The two sides agreed to develop a partnership to provide multi-level support in terms of logistics, financial and professional support in order to organize and develop cultural programs and projects initiated and agreed by both parties, joint organization of cultural and scientific activities that highlighting the results of the research realized along the partnership.

At District Directorate for Culture and National Heritage level there are also, depending on the geographic area, direct representation of minorities, consultative structures, etc.

Other programs carried out by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage with effect in the field of national minorities:

1. The national priority for building headquarters for cultural establishments in localities where there are no such institutions and for rehabilitating, modernizing, equipping and completing the construction of public cultural establishments
2. Programs and actions initiated by the Ministry of Culture in the book industry with the objectives of facilitating access to information and culture, promoting the creation and creators by implementing the National Procurement Book Program and Cultural Magazines subscriptions for public libraries and National financial aid program control with state title and editorial projects cultural periodicals.
3. Romania adopted the Law 410/2005 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Heritage, which has created an advisory body subordinated to the Ministry of Culture - National Commission for the Safeguarding of world masterpiece. Equally, it is highly important that the local communities and civil society are involved in the field of intangible heritage.
4. National Cultural Fund Administration, a public institution subordinated to the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage is funding projects in the area of museology, visual arts and architecture, dance, cultural diversity, cultural education, cultural intervention, cultural management, training, theater, music from the perspective of applicability in the field of national minorities protection, relevant for the Framework Convention.

In the context of the efforts of the Government of Romania and of the European Union for the inclusion of vulnerable groups, that are comprising also Roma, in its position of specialized agency of the central public administration, the National Agency for Roma provides expertise to the central and local public administration but also to the European Commission through its human resources and its information and communication networks. In this respect, the institution acts as a catalyst between the

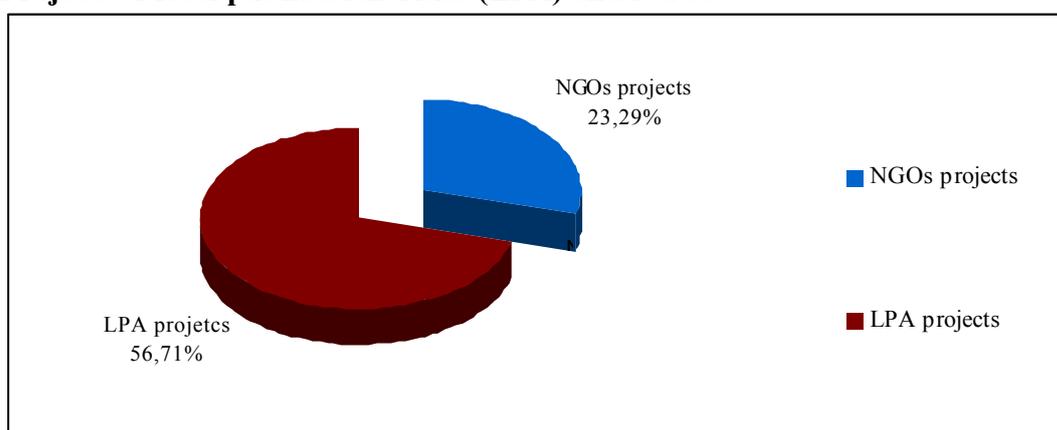
specialized ministries, decentralized public institutions, decentralized services, local authorities responsible with implementing public policies for Roma.

Financial instruments allocated for the public policies for Roma

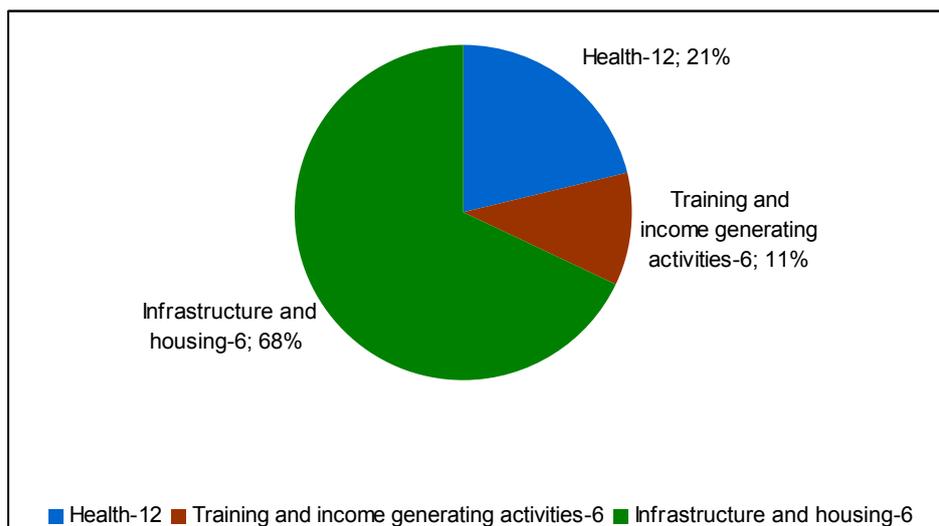
The financial instruments utilized by the NAR, respectively the pre-accession, social inclusion and post-accession programs aimed at implementing public policies for Roma had as legal basis the Government's Strategy for the improvement of Roma situation, specifically, certain measures of the general plan of the Strategy regarding: the education, health, professional training, competitiveness on labor market, housing, small infrastructure, development of the administrative capacity, communitarian development. The results of implementing this policy were extended in order to also cover other public policies: PNAinc – National Anti-Poverty Plan and the Plan for Promoting Social Inclusion, Jim – The Common Memorandum of Inclusion, monitored by the European Commission.

Agreements/Financing by Public Local Authorities (PLA) and NGOs

Projects of local public authorities (LPA) and NGOs



Distribution of the grant scheme and applications submitted by NGOs and local public authorities (LPA) - 2006 PHARE program



Distribution and percentage of LPA applications to PHARE 2006 grant component

• Maintaining minority identity

The organizations of the Council of National Minorities are themselves promoters of cultural projects. The financial and technical assistance given by the DIR have a considerable contribution to promoting dialogue and preservation of cultural heritage of ethnic minorities in Romania. This assistance is considered by most organizations as a vital resource, for many of them, representing the only way to preserve identity, culture and operation.

"The activities of the Association "League of Albanians in Romania" could not have taken place without the funds allocated by the Romanian Government through the Department for Interethnic Relations. Our budget came from the DIR in proportion of 97 - 98%, this institution being our only source of funding.

The Association "The League of Albanians in Romania" benefited only of the amounts received from the Department for Interethnic Relations of the Government and has no other external source of funding nor from the Ministry of Culture or the European bodies or from institutions of the kin-state"²⁸.

"(...) the subsidy granted by the Romanian Government through the Department for Interethnic Relations us was very helpful, our Regional Forum could not carry on its activities in any form without the annual appropriations".²⁹

Theaters in the languages of the national minorities:

Hungarian State Theatre Csiky Gergely in Timișoara
 German State Theatre in Timișoara
 Theatre Radu Stanca in Sibiu, German Section
 Jewish State Theatre in Bucharest

²⁸ Quote from the report sent to DIR by the Association "League of Albanians in Romania"

²⁹ Quote from the Report of Germans Democratic Forum from Extra-Carpathians Region

Hungarian State Theatre in Cluj
National Theatre in Tg.Mures, Tompa Miklos Theatrical Trupe
State Theatre in Oradea, Sziglieti Theatrical Trupe
Northern Theatre in Satu Mare, Harag Gyorgy Theatrical Trupe
Tamasi Aron Hungarian State in Sfântu Gheorghe
Municipal Theatre Csiki Jatekszin in Miercurea Ciuc
Figura Studio Theatre in Gheorghieni
Municipal Theatre Tomcsa Sandor in Odorheiu Secuiesc.

Lyrical Theatre

Hungarian State Opera in Cluj

Puppet Theatre

Puck Theatre in Cluj, Hungarian Section
Ariel Theatre in Tg. Mureş, Hungarian Section
State Puppet Theatre in Oradea
Gong Puppet Theatre in Sibiu, German Section
Puppet Theatre Section of Csiky Gergely Theatre in Timișoara
Puppet Theatre Section of Harag Gyorgy theatre troupe in the Northern Theatre in Satu Mare
Puppet Theatre Section of Tamasi Aron Theatre in Sf. Gheorghe

Professional dance and folklore ensembles

Mureşul Ensemble, Tg. Mureş
Harghita Ensemble, Miercurea Ciuc
Haromszek Ensemble, Sf. Gheorghe

○ **Religion**

In maintaining minority identity, the role of religious institutions is remarkable and important. Religious institutions have preserved and promoted minority languages and traditions. There are no exact statistics on religious affiliation of members of various minorities, but there are some examples, such as: all Germans from the north-west of the country are Roman Catholics, but in other areas they belong to the Lutheran church or other denominations³⁰; the Armenians have their own church called the Armenian Apostolic Church, but those in Transylvania are Catholic, religiously organized around the Armenian Catholic Church³¹; the vast majority of Albanians are of Christian Orthodox rite, but a lesser part practices Islam³²; known as traditionally Orthodox, the Bulgarians in Romania are predominantly Roman Catholics and Greek Orthodox³³; the particularity of the Jewish minority in Romania is given by the aggregation of the ethnic and the religious; the Hungarians, the largest national minority, belong in proportion of 41% to the Roman Catholic church, while 46.6% belong to the reformed cult and 4.5% to the Unitarian cult; "the Union of Serbs of Romania recognizes and respects the Catholic religion of the Carasoveni, who are originally the oldest part of the Serb community from Romania, this being reflected in

³⁰ Data from the Report of Germans Democratic Forum from Romania

³¹ Data from the Report of the Armenian Union from Romania

³² Data from the Report of the Association "League of the Albanians in Romania"

³³ Data from the Report of the Union of Bulgarians from Banat - Romania

the autonomy that the Carasoveni Serbs have within the Union of Serbs in Romania, provided for in the Union Status as well”³⁴.

Following the regional trend of rediscovery of religious values in ex-communist countries, there has been an increased interest in organizing or initiating projects related to spiritual life. The calendar of activities of the DIR dedicated to the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue, included the seminar "Ecumenism as a form of intercultural dialogue" which highlighted the religious interactions that have provided traditional models of ethnic coexistence and encouraged participation in the global campaign "The Alliance of Civilizations", supported by UN.

Other programs financed by the DIR were "The Ecumenical Festival of Religious Music", "The Ecumenical Choir Festival", "Ethnicity-habitat-confession", "Kirva - dedicated to the Catholic Church in Gărâna", "Ecclesiastical Geography in Medieval Banat", "The relationship between Orthodox and Pentecostals Roma culture", "Hungarian Conference of parish councilors", "St. Peter and Paul in the history of the Serb community", "100 years to commemorate the Unitarian Church", "2008 – The Year of the Bible", "Church and School - 80 years", "Book of Prayer-Molitvenic" etc. It is noted that in the Hungarian community's annual cultural calendar, there are many activities through which the religious life is supported.

• Traditions

"The traditions related to the main religious holidays of the year, and the traditions related to the social events taking place in the minority communities are subsumed to the religious traditions to which the community belongs to"³⁵. This is the main reason why many actions carried out and financed by the DIR are organized to celebrate the protective saint of churches and monasteries. A telling example is the Minor Basilica from Cacica dedicated to the Polish minority involving "pilgrims from Poland, Hungary, Germany, and with this occasion liturgies are held in Romanian, Polish, German, Hungarian and Ukrainian"³⁶; the pilgrimage of the worldwide Bucovina Germans also takes place in Cacica; Catholic Hungarians pilgrimage to Șimleu Ciuc on the day of Pentecost; feast of fruits in Poland, celebration of various protective saints (St. Barbara, St. Sava, St. Trifun, etc.) by Serbs. Easter and Christmas to most groups are important holidays creating the opportunity to meet the community members and revive the old traditions.

The organization of traditional concerts, demonstrations, competitions and folklore dance festivals reflect the concern for the preservation of traditions of all minorities. Almost each group has invested recently in purchasing costumes, objects and traditional musical instruments.

DIR has contributed to the organization of activities that support the preservation of minority traditions. Examples: the seminar entitled "The importance of ethnic traditions of youth in Bihor county", the program called "The traditions of minorities in rural areas", concerts of the 3 groups of klezmers, belonging to the Federation of Jewish Communities, "Cutting Vasilopita" at Greeks, "The Camp of Roma folklore",

³⁴ Quote from the Report of Union of Serbs of Romania

³⁵ Quote from the report of Cultural Union of Ruthenians in Romania

³⁶ Quote from the report of the Union of Polish in Romania

The Festival of Winter Customs”, the Days of Hungarian fairy tales "I am the nephew of Mr. Elek", “Traditions and customs of the Tatar folklore”; "Maslenita", "Popular games in the hearts of children”, the contest of fairy tale and folk song for the students of the Homorod Valley, “the Hellenism Festival in Romania”, "the House of Hungarian traditional folk dance", "the Spring Festival of Roma", "the Old Polish Easter tradition", "Baba Marta", "the Folk Festival of national minorities entitled Szejke", "the Festival of wedding customs from Zrenjanin", "the Dance and folk song gala of nationalities from Ierului Valley"; “the Traditional festival of Serbian folk song and dance”, "the Country Celebration Wiesenfest"; "Carnivals - Art of popular masks at the Banat Bulgarians", etc.

• Language

The minority languages have a special place in the preservation of the identity of national minorities and special attention is devoted to maintaining and promoting the specific needs in this regard. On May 1, 2008 the *European Charter of regional or minority languages* came into force, providing additional protection for minority languages. In April 2008 the DIR organized a roundtable on the monitoring and implementation of the Charter. The event was welcomed by the representatives of the Council of Europe. Also, during the European Day of Languages, the DIR has organized a double event under the motto "European Charter of languages - support for multilingualism and intercultural dialogue in Romania" and a contest for students, focused on linguistic diversity in Europe and in Romania. The event took place on 25-26 September 2008.

The national minorities from Romania, directly interested in preserving and developing their own languages, develop specific linguistic projects, as well as weekend courses, schools and kindergartens, open to access of both for community members and others interested. The national language contests enjoy great popularity among students belonging to national minority groups: contests for smaller languages such as neo-Greek, Romani, are organized along with more traditional ones and the results of Lippovan Russian students at the "International Olympics in Native Russian" in Moscow have been outstanding in recent years.

The youth camps of creativity and cultivation of native language have become a tradition ("I want to learn your language!", "Kapocs Link"), comprising meetings and dialogues with minority writers ("the writer and the reader", "The literary reunion of national minorities in Romania"), reciting contests (e.g. "the poetry reciting contest Ady Endre"), literary reunions of the "Kрила", the program "Writers meeting at the border" and "Slavic languages - a way of understanding and communication between people", etc. In 2008 the first edition of "The Festival of Russian poetry", at the initiative of the Community of Lippovan Russians was held.

In 2008, on the occasion of the national day of the Tatars (December 13), the Tatar Union initiated and organized the international conference "Preserving the Diversity of Regional and Minority Languages in the Black Sea Region".

Taking into account the need for access to important pieces of minority literature, there were published dictionaries and anthologies were published (for example, Serbian and Slovak literature, "Angara Niyri - Russian writers etc.). Biographical

Essays, a "Directory of literary texts in Hungarian", and the program "the promotion of national minorities through radio drama on DVD took shape recently. The Hellenic Union of Romania has published "Eminescu", a bilingual edition of the poems of the most important Romanian poet.

• Patrimony

The cultural heritage, tangible or intangible, is a fragile and limited source presenting a high risk of irreparable damage or loss. The lack of material resources, education or interests can lead to the disappearance or destruction of artistic values, feelings and memories created by the past generations. The numerically inferior minority groups often depend solely on public budget funds, risking significant identity loss. For this reason, the national minorities take great efforts to preserve and pass on their cultural heritage.

The Union of Croats has "its folk heritage preserved in electronic collections (CDs with songs and dances), and last year the plan for the Central Museum and Ethnographic Documentation of the Croats in Romania was drafted, including an inventory of material culture"³⁷.

A similar initiative belonged to the Cultural Union of Ruthenians from Romania, who, "through the union of members with specialized studies, began a campaign of collecting folklore, archiving and presentation of it"³⁸.

"The Ukrainians of Romania have several museums (at Paltinu - Suceava county, Căndești - Botosani county, etc.); UUR in collaboration with the Embassy of Ukraine in Romania and the Ministry of Culture erected a number of historical or cultural monuments during the last decade: the monument dedicated to the trans-Danube Zaporozhe Cossacks (at Dunavățul de Jos, Tulcea county, 1997), the bust of Taras Shevchenko (in Herastrau Park, 1999 and Negostina village, Suceava county, 2001); the bust of the writer Olha Kobylyanska (in Gura Humorului, 2003); the bust of the Hetman Ivan Mazepa (Galati, 2003)."

"The Hebrew patrimony consists of 94 sacred synagogues: 41 in function, 34 are historical monuments and 809 are cemeteries, located in 724 municipalities, many in places where no Jews live anymore"³⁹. In addition, they noted the Coral Temple in Bucharest and synagogues transformed also into museums and cultural centers.

Many churches, cathedrals, fortifications, monuments, artistic and historical, ethnographic museums, memorial houses of personalities, libraries are representative for the Hungarian minority. Among them the Cathedral of Sumuleu Ciuc, Farkas Bolyai High School of Targu Mures (inaugurated in 1557), or the Cluj Napoca Hazsongard Cemetery are most remarkable.

"The Cultural patrimony of the Polish minority is intertwined with folklore – it is about the songs and dances. The messengers of that heritage are, in particular, young members of the two folk groups" Mała Pojana "in Poiana Micului and" Sołonzanka

³⁷ Quote from the Report of Union of Croats in Romania

³⁸ Quote from the Report of Union of Ruthenians in Romania

³⁹ Quote from the Report of Federation of Hebrew Communities in Romania

"in Solonețu Nou"⁴⁰. The Cathedral and salt mine of Cacica, with its ballroom, church, and an underground lake are also important.

In addition to the material type of cultural heritage, the Albanian patrimony includes the creations of numerous cultural and artistic personalities who found their places in the Romanian cultural space. The most famous name is the poet Victor Eftimiu.

"The Serbian Orthodox Diocese of Romania has 53 churches, 2 chapels and 5 Serbian Orthodox monasteries, some of them, like the Bezdin monastery, or Baziaș (found by St. Sava, in the XIII century), are of major importance to the Serbian spiritual and cultural community in Romania. Additionally, there are several religious and cultural monuments also managed by the Serb church: cultural monuments representing ten major cultural and historical personalities of the Serb community in Romania, or monuments representing important events in the history and social life of the Serbian community of the Romanian Banat."⁴¹

In 2003 the National Centre for Culture of the Roma, a public institution with the central objective of preserving and promoting the traditional Roma culture, and the creation and dissemination of modern culture and ethnicity, was established.

Some important elements of cultural heritage of the national minorities are the architectural, historical and religious monuments – the Brukenthal Museum, the oldest museum in Romania, the city of Sighisoara, part of the UNESCO World Heritage, are representative for the German community; the Gherla Cathedral and Hagigadar monastery are over 500 years old; Casa Melik, the oldest civil building in Bucharest, belonging to ethnic Armenian; the Greek Church in Braila; the Carol mosque and the mosques of Babadag (built in 1610) and Mangalia - the oldest mosque in Romania, built in the Moorman style 1590 of the Turkish-Tatar community; the Banat Bulgarian folklore costumes, featuring rich decoration, unique for the Bulgarian folklore and among ethnic groups in this geographical region; "Kures" - Traditional Tatar fights; Lucarevaț wooden church (255 years old), the feast of the saint-patron of the house, the saint-patron of the family, custom specific to the Serbs, the ritual "Release of waters" characteristic to the ethnic Macedonians in Romania; the particularities of the custom of carols of the Lippovan Russians.

DIR constantly supports the preservation of cultural heritage of minorities in Romania by financing the publication of studies and translations, books and albums, as well as documentary films. Most highly prized parts of literature, art, folklore were recorded on audio-video support: "Historical and cultural monuments of Serbs in Romania", "Churches and monuments in the area of Odorhei", "Treasures of the Teleki Library," Pre-modern medieval fortresses and divergent ethnic contexts, Transylvania and Central and Eastern Europe ", the pilot project "Promotion of the multicultural national heritage ", etc.

Some organizations, such as *Communitas*, publish each year the schedule of cultural activities. Others, such as the Lippovan Russian Community of Romania, have established a long-term cultural agenda: "The Strategy for the period 2009 - 2013

⁴⁰ Quote from the Report of "Dom Polski" Union of Polish in Romania

⁴¹ Quote from the Report of Union of Serbs in Romania

aims at addressing the thematic area in developing trans-thematic programs (...) The envisaged intercultural projects represent a line of continuity and innovation, appropriate to the political, socio-cultural and economic context changes"⁴².

All the member organizations of the Council of National Minorities, including the *Pro Europe Roma Party*, received allocations from the state budget in support of culture, language, traditions, religion. In general terms, these allocations have increased from year to year. A calculation of the budget of the organizations in 2008, taking into account the inflation rate for that period, conducted by the authors of the study "*Policies for national minorities in Romania. Legal and institutional aspects in a comparative perspective*"⁴³, shows that the total spending of the minority organizations were: 30 595 000 lei in 2005, 39 503 000 in 2006, 51 429 000 in 2007 and 65 700 000 in 2008. In 2009 the national minorities' organizations were granted 70 000 000 lei, but the budget was adjusted to 62 500 000 lei. In 2010 the budget was of 70 000 000 lei and was not adjusted.

Although some numerically small national minority groups argued that the funds they have received are not sufficient for their needs, these groups have more benefits from the present system in terms of financial allocations. Basically, looking at the amounts allocated over the years to the organizations, one can state that the numerically small minorities received more consistent funds than the more numerous minorities. The situation can be assessed as an affirmative measure supporting small communities that are most vulnerable.

Regarding the transparency of allocation of these funds and the criteria by which they are assigned to organizations, the *Committee on Financial Affairs* of the Council of National Minorities - which convenes monthly - has investigated the matter since 2005 and has proposed various versions of criteria, but they have not been fully approved by the members of the Commission. The issue is still being discussed by the representatives of organizations and by the professionals from the Department for Interethnic Relations, who, theoretically, agree that a mechanical distribution, based on the number of community members criteria is not satisfactory and that numerically small minorities can benefit from a more consistent financial support.

It is to be noted that during 2007 – 2008, more than half of the organizations of the Council of National Minorities requested and obtained the status of public utility foundation, which strengthens the responsibility to society in general, but the degree of transparency with regard to work and use of funds from the budget as well. All these organizations will publish annual progress reports in the Official Gazette, according to the law.

The Restitution of the church's properties and of the real estate belonging to their communities

The status of the restitution of the real estate belonging to the religious cults

At present, from the total of approx 14 800 files registered to the Special Commission of Restitution, a number of 4 441 files have been solved.

⁴² Quote from the Report of the Lippovan Russians from Romania

⁴³ Research edited and printed by the Ethno-Cultural Diversity Recourses Center for, Cluj, 2008

The main reasons that delayed the rhythm of solving the requests were: the insufficient documentary proof, the lack of communication by the owners of the disputed real estate of all the necessary data needed to solve the restitution requests, insufficient personnel to the level of the authorities of the local public administration.

The status of the restitution of certain real estate goods that belonged to the citizens belonging to the communities of national minorities

During 2006 the process of solving the requests started; up to present, 568 requests from a total of 2100 have been finalized.

The number of restitution requests with a favorable solution is rather low due to the fact that the persons claiming the right to restitutions did not submit the proper documentation in support of their claims, in accordance with the law.

Article 6. Tolerance and intercultural dialogue

Minority representatives prefer the concepts of respect, understanding, and dialogue to the term tolerance, which includes a negative connotation.

The new public channel TVR 3 was launched on October 2008 as a regional station that includes broadcasts in minority languages in each respective area (*see details in the media Chapter*).

Although accents of intolerance towards the Roma are still present, positive measures were taken - more Romanian commercial televisions produce and transmit shows with and about the Roma. A very useful initiative is the experience of the *Pro Europe Roma Party* to produce its own television program.

Different organizations have continued to provide training on diversity for journalists, including for Roma journalists. In a seminar organized in March 2008 in Sinaia, the Department for Interethnic Relations held a media specialist reunion on intercultural dialogue. Also, during September 2007 - October 2008, the Centre for Independent Journalism has carried out the project "Increasing the capacity of the Romanian media to facilitate social integration"⁴⁴, to "boost the quality of coverage on disadvantaged groups in the local press to a fair and comprehensive reflection of their national problems". In addition to the seminars held by professional BBC and Romanian trainers, the program included two modules of e-Learning, a premiere for the activity of the centre.

In October-November 2008, the Department for Interethnic Relations and the National Agency for Roma collaborated to increase the knowledge of the situation of the Roma and improve attitudes towards them in the media. A TV spot and five documentaries were produced under the motto *Know the Roma before you judge them!*, to be followed by TV debates hosted by B1TV. The audience of the TV programs, which brought together Roma and non-Roma involved in solving Roma issues, showed a great interest to the subject.

⁴⁴ <http://diversitate.cji.ro/categorie.php?id=2>

The Department for Interethnic Relations collaborated in 2007 with the National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust, supporting the dissemination of studies and research related to Jewish history. Also, at the initiative of an organization of survivors of the Holocaust in Romania, the department funded the every year printing of specialized books for the use of teachers of history of the Holocaust.

A very active role in better understanding the Jews was assumed by the Jewish Communities Federation of Romania, which organized monthly conferences, debates, book launches, international meetings, making religious holidays more visible. Media coverage of these events was significant. Public figures from this ethnic group have openly supported these events – as an example, Maia Morgenstern, one of the greatest actresses of theatre and film in Romania and Europe, who has served as honorary ambassador of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue.

In the field of education, two new disciplines were recently introduced in school - *Intercultural Education* (secondary level) and *History of national minorities* (at high school level). Pupils can choose between these courses. For both subjects, the Ministry of Education and Research approved the 2008 curricula. In December 2008, a teaching material on DVD for teachers who teach *History of National Minorities*⁴⁵ courses was published. This material was elaborated by teachers belonging to minority groups and relevant non-governmental organizations (*Divers Association*).

Minorities were actively involved in fostering intercultural dialogue. In 2008, Romania took part in the campaign *The European Year of Intercultural Dialogue*, implemented by the European Commission. The participation of Romania in the campaign was coordinated by the Centre of Consultancy for European Cultural Programs and was detailed on the www.dialog2008.ro website. Of all the topics covered during the participation in the campaign, national minorities and interethnic relations have attracted most interest and the largest initiatives.

The European Campaign offered the Department for Interethnic Relations a useful tool to support intercultural programs that the institution has been implementing and operating since its establishment in 1997. Thus, during 2008, DIR initiated and organized a series of 14 events in Bucharest and Romania's multi-ethnic areas, as part of Romania's participation in the campaign.

The activities organized by the department took the form of educational programs, contests, seminars, conferences, training sessions for students, teachers and journalists, the production of documentary films about the Roma, book fairs, inter-ministerial working meetings, cultural and academic events etc.

The objectives of these programs were:

- To promote education as an essential element in the support of diversity and intercultural dialogue in all their aspects;
- To develop the central role of media in promoting the principle of equality and mutual understanding;
- To develop attitudes of respect for ethnic, cultural and religious diversity;

⁴⁵ *History of National Minorities of Romania*, Editura Didactica si Pedagogica R.A., 2008, collective paper initiated by *Divers Association* and coordinated by a group of historians.

- To foster training of intercultural communication skills, and networking to prepare participants to take active part in social life;
- To highlight the importance of linguistic diversity and acceptance of different views;
- To stimulate critical thinking and permanent learning.

Moreover, an important part of the programs of the Department for Interethnic Relations was the consolidation of the capacity of teachers to include intercultural components in the teaching of humanities (history, civic education). The themes of the training for teachers included education for democratic citizenship and intercultural dialogue, the legislative and institutional framework, which opened the way to promote intercultural education in schools, including the optional subject *Intercultural Education* for secondary schools (approved by Order no. 3774 / 22.04.2008 of the Minister of Education).

The actions of the Department for Interethnic Relations have received the support and collaboration of several NGOs, the Secretariat of the *European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages* of the Council of Europe, the European Union Delegation in Bucharest, the Council of Europe Information Office in Bucharest, the Ministry of Education Consultancy Centre for European Cultural Programs, the National Institute for the Study of National Minorities, the Regional Centre *Project on Ethnic Relations*, the Ethno-Cultural Diversity Resource Centre, the Intercultural Institute Timisoara etc. The Departments' programs were also supported by important members of the academic community of Romania, specialized in related areas (psychology, sociology, political science etc.). Different theoretical approaches of the concept of *intercultural dialogue* and methodologies to study the inter-cultural phenomenon in Romania were frequently debated.

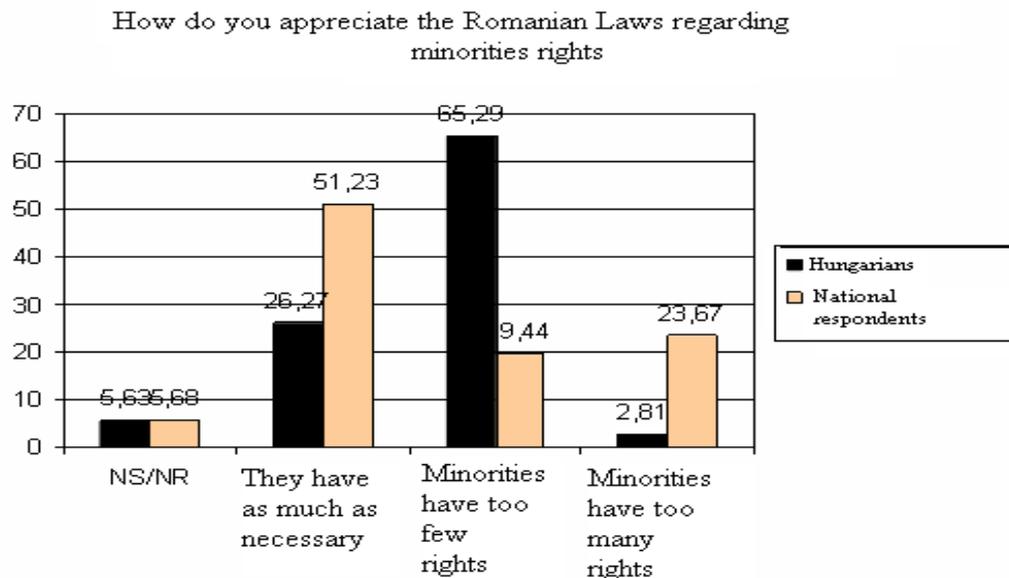
The Interethnic Relations Research Centre (CCRIT) has, at the request of the Institute for the Study of National Minorities, conducted a survey on the topic of *Social cohesion and interethnic climate in Romania*, in October-November 2008. Two distinct samples – ethnic Romanians and ethnic Hungarians – were considered. With regard to the mutual trust, Hungarians are seen as trustworthy by almost half of the respondents (43.8%), but the Roma are seen as such only by 19%. Out of 10 people, 5 do not trust Jews, 4 of 10 do not trust Germans, whereas 3 do not trust any of their fellow countrymen. Distrust towards the Roma is much higher - nearly 80% of the population.

The same survey claims that prejudice and ethnocentrism decreased compared to 2006. Less than 5% agree with the statement "It is natural for an employer to prefer a Romanian to a Hungarian, because he can have more confidence in him." Hungarian and Romanian respondents appear to be in agreement when asked about the trust they have in certain institutions. Most have little confidence in Parliament, public officials, unions and state institutions. The most reliable, however, are the church (8 out of 10 respondents), the education system, the European Union and the army.

With regard to social distance, the relations between Romanians and Hungarians are still seen as full of conflict by 30% of respondents. If extracted from the national sample, 80% of the respondents who reside in Transylvania believe that the relationship between Romanians and Hungarians is rather harmonious, and only 7%

see this it as conflicting. This difference is relatively large compared to the national sample. The explanation can be that most Hungarians live in Transylvania, where interaction is more usual, and cohabitation helps overcoming prejudices.

The survey also covers stereotypes: Jews are seen as religious and smart entrepreneurs, while Hungarians are seen by respondents as being united, proud and selfish. It is still present a certain amount of prejudices regarding Roma. Germans are civilized, intelligent and hardworking, and Romanians are seen by the non-Romanian interviewed as hospitable, honest and hardworking. Relating to this, over half of respondents judged on ethnic lines.



Regarding the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, 24% of respondents believe that minorities have too many rights, while 51% believe that these rights are sufficient. 62% of respondents did not agree or they agree less that the public administration should use the minority languages, where speakers represent over 20% of the population.

To encourage intercultural dialogue in the area of Covasna - Harghita, the Department for Interethnic Relations has funded several projects of the *Alteris* Association from Sfantu Gheorghe, which aim at stimulating links between the two communities.

Also, a regional representative of the department is in charge with the relationship between NGOs and the local authorities in Harghita County and nearby districts. One of the tasks of the representative is the promotion of programs and activities that focus on interethnic and intercultural dialogue.

Police activity
Training programs for the Police

The human rights protection policy for police personnel focuses on adapting the legal framework to ensure the observance of fundamental rights, rigorous selection system of personnel, continuous institutionalized career training, periodic inspections, setting up specific mechanisms to deal with human rights issues

With the purpose of preventing and responding to the occurrence of discriminatory acts perpetrated by police officers against Roma, the General Inspectorate of the Romanian Police developed "*The Program regarding the contribution of the Romanian Police to the improvement of the situation of Roma*". The General Police Inspectorate also launched a program aiming at encouraging recruitment from among persons belonging to national minorities, in particular Roma, as well as ensuring their attending of the police schools. The Police Academy in Bucharest reserves annually a number of seats for candidates of Roma origin. There were 10 such seats both for the academic years 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 respectively. At present, the Ministry of Interior employs officers and agents of Roma origin.

The process of training of MAI's personnel in the field of human rights, not only within its education units, but also through other means, has continued. Along with MAI's own training programs, the staff has taken part in different national or international sessions (seminars, courses, scientific debates etc.). Approximately 53.000 personnel have been trained in this field.

Between July 2008 and July 2010, a number of projects were developed by the Romanian Police in partnership with other institutions or NGOs.

Starting with 1994, the Romanian Police promoted partnership with NGOs (including Roma NGOs) in the field of human rights protection. The collaboration was focused on areas such as: support for social inclusion of Roma; improving the relationship between the police and multicultural communities by increasing the level of trust of Roma in the local authorities; preventing, identifying and diffusing tensions between Roma and the majority population; combating discrimination.

A series of programs have been developed:

- *Prevention of violence in interethnic conflicts* (April – June 2004), organized in partnership with the "*Foundation for Democratic Changes*". There were 8 training sessions with officers policing multicultural communities. The participants (200 agents) received a manual of good practices on this specific topic.
- *Promoting good governance in multicultural communities. Access and participation of the ethnic minorities in the public life*, developed in partnership with the "*Resources Centre for Ethno-Cultural Diversity*" (2003-2006). It included training sessions on topics such as: relations police-community, strategic planning, prevention of all forms of discrimination, good governance in multiethnic communities etc. (63 police officers participated), as well as meetings between the police, the local authorities and the ethnic minorities in such communities.
- *Local support for neutral intervention in conflicts*, organized in partnership with the "*Foundation for Democratic Changes*" and the "*Resources Centre for Roma*" (2003 – 2004), aimed at facilitating the interaction between Roma mediators and local communities. It included 12 meetings between authorities and representatives of the local communities. The conclusions of these meetings resulted in the publishing of a handbook.

- *Conflict resolution capacity building for the Romanian police* (May 2005 – July 2006), organized in partnership with the “*Danish Centre for Conflict Resolution*” and the “*Regional Centre for Facilitation and Negotiation – Iasi*”. It provided training for 15 police officers in the field of human rights and conflict management, as well as 42 training sessions (1 per each county) for 871 police officers assigned in multicultural communities throughout the country.
- *Memorandum of cooperation concerning the Strategic Initiative: Roma and Police in Romania* (2005) between the Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reform, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe/Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights – Contact Point for Roma and Sinti and the “*Roma Centre for Social Intervention and Studies – Romani Criss*”.
- *Promoting good governance in multicultural communities. Access and participation of the ethnic minorities in public life*, implemented in partnership with the “*Resources Centre for Ethno-Cultural Diversity*” (April – June 2007) - information campaign (“*Mission possible*”) carried out in 6 counties, designed to persuade students belonging to ethnic minorities to consider a career in the police. The campaign consisted of: printing posters (1300) and leaflets (1800) in several languages (Romanian, Hungarian, Romani), displaying information materials in schools, high schools and police headquarters; organizing 23 meetings with students in high school; advertising in the main local newspapers and on the Internet.
- *Police and ethnic minorities* (January 2007 – December 2008), in partnership with the “*Regional Centre for Facilitation and Negotiation*” – Iasi” and “*Resources Centre for Ethno-Cultural Diversity*” – 30 training sessions for local police officers, 610 participants assigned to intercultural communities.
- **The community mediation**, developed by the Psycho-sociology and Prevention Institute within the Romanian General Police Inspectorate, in partnership with ALMA-RO Association, in which approximately 130 police personnel have participated, aiming at training personnel in the human rights field, solving conflicts, knowing and applying national legislation and international documents regarding human rights. Also, 5000 brochures and 7000 flyers were printed and disseminated, containing basic information regarding the intervention to conflict situations, knowing about mediators and promoting the mediators activity etc. In order to present the results of such project, an international conference was organized aiming also at presenting the modalities of intercultural mediation, best practices and lessons learned and experiences shared by the representatives of the participating states.
- The continuation of the “**Police and ethnic minorities**” project developed by the above mentioned institute in collaboration with the Negotiation Regional Centre from Iasi, in which approximately 126 police personnel have participated (most of them working in multicultural communities). Training courses and meetings between the General Police Inspectorate and the representatives of the Roma communities were organized (local leaders, Roma NGOs, informal leaders).

- **“Together towards respecting the Rights”**, developed by the above mentioned institute in collaboration with the “Alaturi de voi” Association, aiming at disseminating the information about human rights and prevention of discrimination, with special emphasis on the persons caring AIDS. Thus, 3 seminars were organized, in which 21 police personnel have participated, and a number of 10 public debates in 10 localities from Iasi and Vaslui counties.
- The elaboration of the OSCE manual: **“Police and Roma and Sinti: Good Practices in Building Trust and Understanding”**⁴⁶, in collaboration with Romanian General Police Inspectorate, published in 2010. This publication aims at assisting the participatory of States to the OSCE in implementing their commitments under the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area by identifying principles and good practices that can be used in efforts to improve relations between the police and Roma and Sinti communities.
- The Psycho-sociology and Prevention Institute, in partnership with the Resources Centre for Ethno-Cultural Diversity-Cluj and “Septimiu Muresan” Agents School, is implementing the **“Mission possible - equal chances in choosing one’s career”** project, aiming at promoting equal opportunities and chances among minority youth (Hungarian, Roma, German) through encouraging them to choose a career in the police. So far, several meetings have been organized with pupils from X-th and XI-th grades (21 meetings), selecting high school pupils to participate in a summer camp organized within the “Septimiu Muresan” Agents School, distributing informing materials about the advantages of being a police officer for their local community (brochures, flyers) etc.

The collaboration between Romanian General Police Inspectorate and the National Roma Agency within the Romanian Government was aimed at developing human resources, better understanding the Roma communities and promoting community dialogue.

Meetings of the *Consultative Committee on the Relation between the Police and the Roma minority* were conducted by the Romanian General Police Inspectorate. Representatives of Roma NGOs were involved in analyzing the situations occurred or that may occur in communities with a large number of Roma, and the methods to prevent potential tensed situations.

It should be mentioned that partnerships between local police structures and Roma associations were structured by activity domain, as following:

- a) improvement of the police-multicultural communities relation through increasing Roma community members’ trust in local authorities;
- b) prevention, identification and conflict solving between persons of Roma ethnicity, and between these persons and the majority population;
- c) respecting and defending human dignity, elimination of any discrimination forms.

⁴⁶ Available at: <http://www.osce.org>;

Article 7. Freedom of association

The registration of the organizations belonging to the national minorities is regulated by the Government Ordinance no. 26/2000 concerning *associations and foundations, with subsequent modifications and additions*.

The organizations of Hungarians, Ukrainians and Roma, other than those represented in the Council of the National Minorities, have participated in local elections and obtained mandates to be mayors, local councilors, etc. (see Chapter 15-Attendance).

Article 8. Religion and faith

In Romania, the right to religion and faith of the citizens belonging to the national minorities is guaranteed, and various ways of expressing religion exist.

The authorities supported anniversaries and commemorations of important cultural and religious personalities belonging to minorities, as well as shows and festivals of religious music:

- Concert organized by the Jewish Community in Oradea organized by the Federation of Jewish Community;
- The Festival of Serbian Choirs organized by the Serbian Union;
- Choral Meeting Sf. Ladislau, organized by the Reformed Parish in Săvădisla;
- Choral Meeting CANTATE, XIVth edition, Reformed Parish Bodoc;
- The commemoration of the great Turkish poet and philosopher Mevlana – international symposium organized in Constanța;
- Csilogoska Foundation organized, during the Bible year, a program dedicated to the events in 1600, when the Ottomans, while besieging Oradea city, have allowed the printing of the Bible. Hungarian, Romanian, Tatar and Turkish folk groups participated in the project.

Numerous multicultural, zonal and national events have been organized, with the participation of national minorities and of the majority, in order to promote dialogue and peaceful cohabitation.

Article 9. Access to the media

The right to freedom of expression and freedom to receive and impart information are guaranteed by the Constitution of Romania, and also protected by the law on the organization and functioning of the Romanian Radio Society and the Romanian Society of Television Broadcasting no.41/1994 and Law no.504 / 2002.

There is no complaint on behalf of the organizations of national minorities in Romania with regard to their freedom of expression. Minority communities have access to all types of information. In recent years efforts were taken to improve access for all minorities to public media, to increase coverage and transmission time allocated to them on radio and television, and to assure an active presence in print media. In addition to this processes of expansion, we can notice a diversification of

topics in radio and TV, which offers the possibility of informing the public and communities on a wide range of concerns for minorities.

However, the Albanian minority has specified in its report that "many times, the press has put in a bad light the work and very existence of our organization, because journalists did not consider alternative sources, have not contacted us, but took the rumors and inaccurate information that they only heard"⁴⁷.

The Roma stated that "after 1989, in the media, Roma were frequently characterized and labeled in negative terms. Unfortunately Romanian media has contributed to widening stereotypes and xenophobic attitudes against Roma. One of the measures taken by the Roma to combat this phenomenon was the creation of "The Caravan of Roma"⁴⁸ show."

As for the relations with the media, the Ukrainian minority said: "Regarding the media, there are broadcasts in Ukrainian on both TV and radio, but frequency and duration are low. We would like that the time allocated to radio broadcasts in Ukrainian be increased, and a separate Ukrainian section be created at the national television"⁴⁹.

Internet

Except for three minority organizations (The Roma Party, the Union of Slovaks and Czechs and the Ukrainians Union) who intend to develop their websites during this year, national minority representatives have their own websites. Some have the websites of the local communities (Jews, Poles, Russians Lippovan Russians Hungarians and Germans) and/or online editions of their publications (Armenians, Lippovan Russians, Turks, Hungarians, and Germans). New ways of media and information are used in particular at the headquarters, to realize the publications, as well as in schools where minority languages are taught. Most schools that currently have computer labs have set up mini-internet clubs. Ethnic Croats said they have permanent Internet access for their community (see *the List of Romanian web pages* related to minorities - Annex 4).

Publications

Each minority group has at least one publication either in its own language or bilingual, but their number and circulation vary according to the tradition, the number of members, financial resources or ethnic interest. Thus, the Hungarian minority publishes over 100 publications of various kinds - daily information, magazines specialized on several domains, including cultural or religious magazines. The German minority publishes daily "Allgemeine Deutsche Zeitung", which includes the weekly supplement of the German communities in Brasov and Banat, and a weekly publication in Sibiu. The German communities from Resita and Satu Mare publish a monthly newspaper and a magazine. There is also a German year-book.

⁴⁷ Quote from the Report sent to DIR by the Association of Albanians in Romania

⁴⁸ Quote from the Report sent to DIR by the PRO EUROPE Roma Faction

⁴⁹ Quote from the Report sent to DIR by the Union of Ukrainians in Romania

In addition to its own magazine, "Siamo di nuovo insieme", the Italian minority has "permanent access to all Italian language newspapers and journals published in Romania such as "Piazza Italia", "7 Giorni", "Il Gazzettino Romeno", "Patata Bollente" and others⁵⁰. The Macedonian minority has a monthly magazine for all ethnic members and other 4 quarterly magazines appear in the 4 major Macedonian communities. The Jewish Communities Federation of Romania has announced an increase of its central publication draft "Hebrew Reality" (trilingual publication: Romanian, Yiddish, English) from 4000 to 4500 copies, besides the local community magazines.

Interested in preserving and promoting their language and culture, many minorities are remarked for their publications that focus on culture: the Lippovan - Russians have a socio-cultural newspaper and a cultural magazine (both bilingual), Poles publish a quarterly journal for children in Polish, and Ukrainians have 5 publications (4 in Ukrainian and one in Romanian), with political-social-cultural and literary profile, and also for children.

The Tatar Union shows a special care for the concerns and the interests of various members by publishing a monthly newspaper and two monthly magazines, one for youth and one for women. The publications are trilingual - Tatar, Turkish and Romanian.

The publications of the Roma minority remain modest: they edit the magazine "The ace of clubs" irregularly (2 appearances in 2005, 2 appearances in 2008). The supplement "The Roma Party report by the "Romanian Reality" newspaper appears regularly (one page, 12 appearances in 2005, 12 appearances in 2006). The "The Roma little stars" magazine also appeared in 2007 (one issue, 250 copies). The increase of the audience of the publication "The ace of clubs" is noteworthy; from 20,000 copies in 2005 to 220,000 copies in 2008 (in the new form of newspaper).

Many minorities have realized also online editions of their publications: Armenians, Bulgarians, Jews, Lippovan Russians, Turks, Hungarians, Germans, etc.), and have posted on the websites of the organizations important articles published in their periodicals. The financial support received from the state budget is the main source ensuring publication, as well as the needed logistical support (computers and equipment for editing and publishing of periodicals).

There are more than 40 publications edited by the national minorities, other than Hungarian. Their content has diversified in recent years, covering a wider range of topics of interest to minority members. Also substantial investments have been made for the improvement of the graphic format of the publications, most of which today appear in color. Another element to be appreciated is the fact that the distribution area of such national and regional publications has widened, and they are now requested by members of communities originating from Romania who live abroad.

Radio

⁵⁰ Quote from the Report sent to DIR by the Association of Italians in Romania "RO.AS.IT"

Broadcasts in minority languages are produced and distributed today by the Editorial of Minorities of the public radio in Bucharest (Hungarian and German) and the regional studios in Cluj, Constanta, Iasi, Resita, Targu-Mures and Timisoara. Radio Romania broadcasts in 14 languages, especially in regional studios. Editors from Bucharest make 380 minutes of weekly broadcasts in Hungarian and 370 minutes in German. Given the recent ratification of the Charter of languages, the Minority Editorial in Bucharest develops a project that aims at widening the transmission time to 2 hours per day. Also, following a request made by representatives of the Ukrainian Union of Romania, the Romanian Radio Broadcasting Corporation held a competition for filling a post of Ukrainian editor to improve the studio broadcast in the Ukrainian Regional Studio in Cluj that prepares the material to be broadcasted through the Sighetu Marmatiei studio.

The regional radio studios are performing and running most of the broadcasts on minority languages, amounting to a total of 7260 minutes per week. These programs represent 7.15% of all programs of the Romanian Radio Society and 10.77% of total regional programs.

A particular success present the cross-border broadcasts run at Radio Timisoara for 10 years, carried out 2 times a month, in three languages - Serbian, Romanian and Hungarian, between the cities of Subotica, Szeged and Timisoara, as well as the bi-monthly broadcasts in German (Funkforum) of public radio studios in Germany, Austria, Hungary and Romania (Radio Bucharest, Timisoara, Targu-Mures). Broadcasts in Hungarian should be mentioned, which are available weekly with the help of the radio studios in Uzhgorod, Bratislava, Lendvai, Osiek, Bucharest, Timisoara, Cluj, and Targu-Mures⁵¹.

Weekly share of broadcasts for minorities in the Romanian Radio Society programs are:

- **Radio Cluj:** broadcasts for minorities - **28.57%** of the total

Broadcasts in minority languages

- on Hungarian
 - 2100 minutes in medium waves
 - 1680 minutes in ultra short waves
- on Ukrainian
 - 15 minutes in ultra short waves

- **Radio Constanta:** broadcast for minorities - **3.65%** of the total

Broadcasts in minority languages

- Greek, 30 minutes
- Turkish, 30 minutes
- Russian, 30 minutes
- Tatar, 30 minutes
- Armenian, 30 minutes

- **Radio Timisoara:** broadcast for minorities - **21.43%** of the total

Broadcasts in minority languages

⁵¹ Data from the document sent to DIR by the Romanian Radio Society

- Hungarian, 840 minutes
- German 840 minutes
- Serbian 840 minutes
- Slovak, 60 minutes
- Czech, 30 minutes
- Bulgaria, 30 minutes
- Ukrainian, 30 minutes
- Romany 30 minutes

Each month, on Sundays, at the request of the Italian community, one hour of Italian show is broadcasted

- **Radio Targu-Mures: broadcast for minorities - 44.61% in AM and 39.70% in FM of the total**

Broadcasts in minority languages:

- Hungarian, 3000 minutes in FM of the 2220 minutes in medium waves
- German, 200 minutes in medium waves
- Romani, 60 minutes in the first, second and third week of the month

- **Radio Resita:** broadcasts for minorities - **28.57%** of the total.

Broadcasts in minority languages - Ukrainian, Serbian, Hungarian, German, Slovak, and Croatian - 30 minutes each.

- **Radio Iasi:** broadcasts for minorities - **0.22%** of the total.

Broadcasts in minority languages - Ukrainian (20 minutes)

Broadcasts for minorities in Romanian - "Interethnic Dialogue" (Polish, Jewish, German) - 15 minutes.

Besides the Romanian Radio Society, there are private radio stations that broadcast in languages of the national minorities (or bilingual): 18 for Hungarians (three of which essentially religious, the religious Roman Catholic, Reformed and Unitarian) and the radio station created by the Turkish Democratic Union in 2008 in partnership with the Democratic Union of Turkish-Muslim Tatars in Romania (radio issued daily from 5-14 in Turkish, Tatar and Romanian).

The radio broadcasts dedicated to national minorities can be heard on the Internet, all the Romanian Radio Society programs and most private radio stations in Hungarian being accessible through new media forms.

Television

“The Romanian Television (TVR) operates under the control of Parliament in accordance with Law no. 41/1994, concerning television broadcasts in the Romanian language, *in the languages of national minorities* or other languages, for informational, cultural, educational and entertainment purposes. Article 4, paragraph (1) provides that the Romanian Television, as public service, in fulfilling its general purpose to inform, educate, and entertain, is required to promote competently and

exigently the values of the Romanian language, of the genuine cultural, scientific, national and universal creation, of *national minorities*, as well as democratic, civic, moral and sports values. Article 7 paragraph (3) states that at least 30% of the broadcasted European creations will be Romanian, including creation specific to national minorities.

In accordance with Law no. 41/1994, *the parliamentary groups of national minorities shall have one representative in the Board of Directors of the Romanian Television Society*"⁵².

The geographical coverage of the broadcasts of the Romanian Public Television represents the entire country, while TVR International ensures the access to information of Romanians abroad.

In addition, the National Council of the Audiovisual mentions that, in accordance with the provisions of the Broadcasting Law no. 504/2002, art. 82 (1), all cable distributors have the obligation to include the Romanian Television Society channels among those they transmit, so as to increase access to programs for national minorities.

According to art. 82 (4), in those cities where national minorities represent more than 20% of the population, the law provides for increasing their access to programs by introducing the obligation of broadcasting programs which are free to retransmit, in the minority language⁵³.

After joining the European Union on 1 January 2007, Directive 89/552/EEC, as consolidated by Directive 2007/65/EC concerning the pursuit of television broadcasting activities has become applicable in Romania as well. The Directive provides in section 4, art. 2 that "(1) Member States shall ensure freedom of reception and shall not restrict retransmissions on their territory of television broadcasts from other Member States for reasons which fall within the fields coordinated by this Directive."

These provisions apply to Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary. "All neighboring non-EU states of Romania can broadcast programs for national minorities in Romania, according to a retransmission agreement issued by the National Council of the Audiovisual for television broadcasting, which are subject to international agreements for free retransmission. This reflects the situation of programs broadcasted by Ukraine, Serbia and Moldova for national minorities in Romania"⁵⁴.

Starting with 2008, when the *European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages* came into force, the Romanian Public Television⁵⁵ was the first to acknowledge the distinction between broadcasts in national minority languages and broadcasts about national minorities (the latter being presented in Romanian).

The production of programs for national minorities broadcasted on the 5 national channels of the public television (TVR 1, TVR2, TVR3, TVR Cultural and TVR

⁵² Data extracted from the paper sent to DIR by TVR

⁵³ Quote from the data sent to DIR by the National Audiovisual Council

⁵⁴ Quote from the data sent to DIR by the National Audiovisual Council

⁵⁵ Data extracted from the paper sent to DIR by TVR

International) and on the www.tvr.ro portal is ensured by the Hungarian Program Department, the German Programs Department, and the Department for Programs for Other Minorities. The 5 territorial studios – TVR Cluj, TVR Iasi, TVR Timisoara, TVR Craiova and TVR Targu-Mures – produce their own broadcasts, which are also re-transmitted by TVR3.

The setting up in October 2008 of the TVR3 channel, having as a motto the phrase “Better Together!”, allowed for the extension of the geographical coverage, also increasing the space allotted to broadcasts in minority languages and creating new programs. This new channel addressed some of the requests related to the hours of transmission and re-transmission of broadcasts for minorities. As a first in the history of TVR, TVR3 introduced broadcasts in Bulgarian, Croatian, Russian, Turkish, Tatar, Greek, Czech, Slovak and Ukrainian. These add to the long-established broadcasts in Hungarian, German, Serbian and Romani.

The events in the life of other minorities (not mentioned above) are covered in programs about national minorities in Romanian. The support offered by representative organizations of minorities and their collaboration in the production of programs proved essential to the success of this project of the Romanian Television.

Following the July 2008 changes in the organizational structure of the Romanian Television Society, the re-structuring of the editorial offices for national minorities was initiated, so that in 2009 several more editors and producers for national minority programs will be hired. TVR Timisoara will hire, for example, a producer for the German language program and an editor for the Hungarian language program. TVR Targu Mures has already created the Hungarian editorial team, while TVR Cluj will shortly organize a competition for the post of editor of the Ukrainian language program. The setting up of the regional studio in Targu Mures, whose broadcasts in 2009 were ca. 50% in Hungarian, will considerably increase the space offered to broadcasts in this language.

In 2009 the Romanian Television organized a training course for employees involved in the production of new programs in minority languages at TVR3.

TVR strictly observed spaces allotted to programs for national minorities in Romania on its five channels. At the same time, it has been concerned with designing new, qualitative, and informative programs, which would attract and maintain high audience levels. The Lippovan Russians mentioned in the report they submitted to DIR that "due to the ongoing concerns to promote and valorize the culture of national minorities, we enhanced our presence on television programs at TVR, and also at other, private, TV stations”.

In recent years, the cooperation with the Department for Interethnic Relations has intensified at regional level. Thus, in Timisoara a series of programs, reports and news about the multicultural, intercultural and interethnic coexistence in Banat has been produced. Promotional videos, including the "Day of the National Minorities”, and inter-cultural journals were broadcasted. All these TV productions helped to promote cultural diversity in the western part of Romania. The Romanian Television also promotes activities undertaken by associations and organizations of the national

minorities. Note should be made of the media courses for minority journalists that the Department for Interethnic Relations organized in recent years.

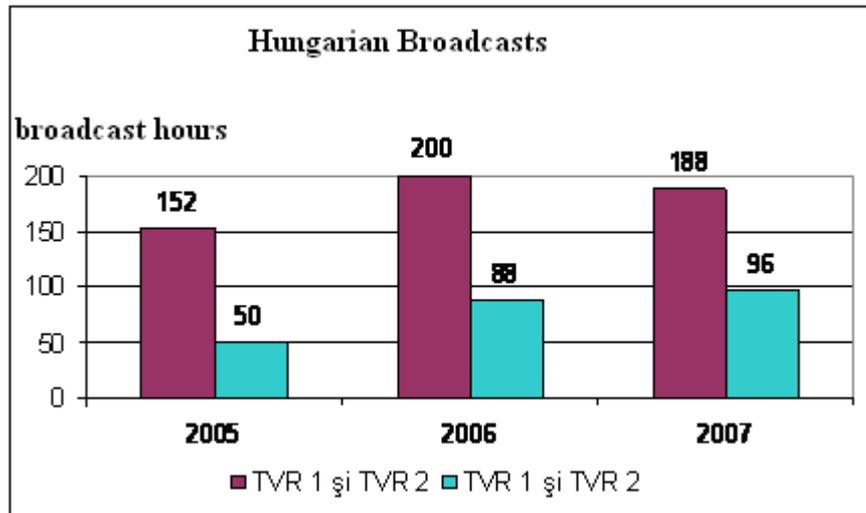
TVR has reserved a space on TVR3 for broadcasting on a weekly basis feature movies from the kin states of national minorities in Romania (with Romanian subtitles). To this purpose, TVR signed or renewed cooperation agreements (for exchanges of programs, films, documentaries, reports, etc.) with televisions in Albania, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Germany, Greece, Israel, Macedonia, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Turkey, Ukraine and Hungary.

The situation of minority programs broadcasted on the above-mentioned 5 channels of TVR in 2005-2007 is the following:

• Hungarian minority (broadcasting hours in 2005-2007):

Channel	Title	Day of broadcast	Time	Duration / effective	Notes
TVR 1	Kronika	Monday	15:30-17:00	90min./75 min	
		Tuesday	16:00-17:00	60min./50 min	
TVR 2	Szieszta / Cafeneaua	Thursday	15:00-17:00	60min./52 min	Together in Europe
TVR Cultural	Kultura	Thursday	19:00-19:30 16:00-16:30	30min./28 min	Selection from the library
TVR International	Hungarian show	Monday	15:00-16:00 12:00-13:00	60min./58 min Fortnightly	Selection from the TVR 1 and TVR 2 broadcasts

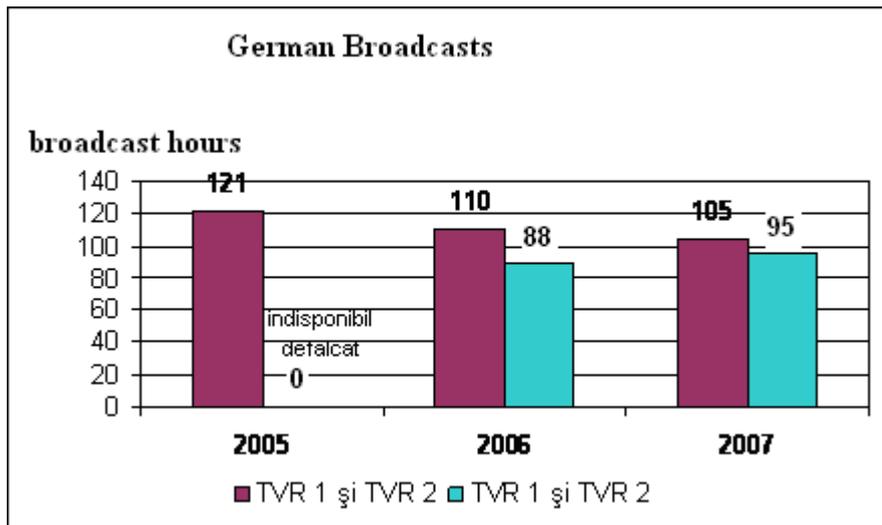
Current broadcasts listed above are informative programs that cover much of the EBU classification: news bulletin – a weekly chronicle of events (14%), publishing / infotainment - commentary, talk shows, discussions (28%), art and culture - documentaries, interviews (28%), entertainment – pop music, jokes, sketches, performance (10%), science – documentaries, interviews (9%), music – classical, jazz, folk, dance (6%), education - school interviews, discussions (3%), religion - (3%). Also, TVR broadcasts special editions (supplementary) of programs in Hungarian for Easter, Christmas and New Year celebrations.



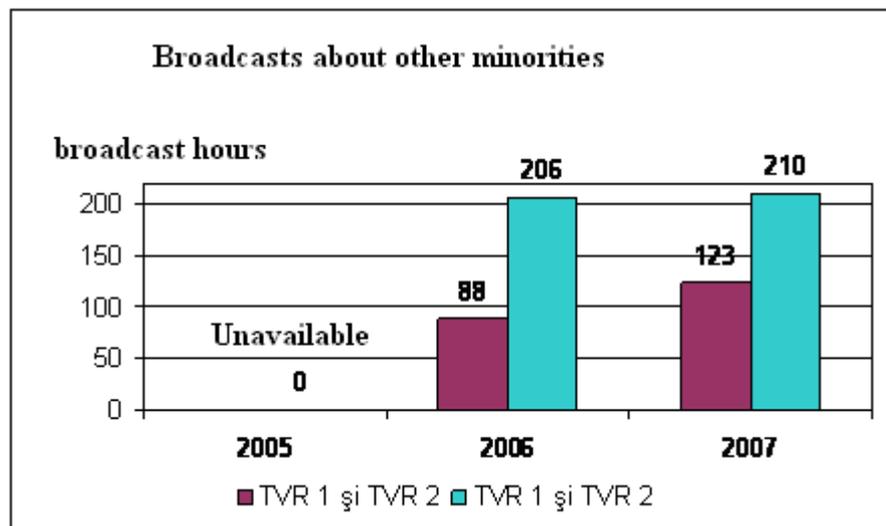
- German Minority (broadcasting hours in 2005-2007):

Chanel	Title	Day of broadcast	Time	Duration / effective	Observation
TVR 1	Akzente	Thursday	15:30-17:00	90min	
TVR 2	Together in Europe	Tuesday	15:00-16:00	60min	Twice a month
TVR Cultural	German Show	Friday	16:00-16:30	60min	Selection from the TVR 1 and TVR 2 broadcasts
TVR International	German Show	Monday	14:00-15:00	60min	Selection from the TVR 1 and TVR 2 broadcasts

The German Programs Department broadcasted 150 minutes of production per week on TVR1 and TVR2 (TVR International and TVR Cultural broadcast mostly replays). In addition, special broadcasts for Easter and Christmas were also produced. Also, a few portfolio documentaries were produced, such as 'The Price of Freedom' (a film about the "selling" of Germans to Germany) and the monthly series of programs occasioned by the designation of Sibiu as the European Capital of Culture. Furthermore, the TVR German Programs Department produced in the Dome Square in Timisoara a show entitled 'A Summer Dream', which included arias from operas, folk dances, ballet, plays, classical and brass-band music.



- Broadcasts about other minorities (hours of broadcasting in 2005-2007):



For the first time on TVR1, TVR2 and TVR Cultural, the Department for Programs for other minorities produces seven weekly broadcasts, all domestic productions, amounting to four and a half hours, as follows:

Luggage for Europe / Cohabitations (TVR1, duration 50 min., Wednesdays, from 16.00) – reflects issues representative of all ethnic groups officially recognized in Romania;

Together in Europe (TVR 2, duration 52 min., Fridays, from 15.00) – addresses issues of intercultural, multicultural, and inter-ethnic relations;

First step (TVR 2, duration 52 min., Mondays, from 15.00) – program addressing exclusively Roma issues: customs, traditions and social problems;

Identities (TVR Cultural, Tuesdays from 19.00, and Wednesdays from 16.00) – promotes the main issues and values of various ethnic groups in Romania;

Danube ethnicities (TVR 2, broadcast for the Muntenia and Dobrogea areas, lasting 26 minutes, Mondays, from 17.00) – consists of three reports filmed and edited, which are then broadcasted and discussed by an invited guest;

Regional stations – TVR Iasi, TVR Cluj, TVR Craiova and TVR Timisoara allocate spaces devoted to national minorities' issues. In Timisoara and Cluj, from Monday to Thursday, 30 minute programs in Hungarian, German, Serbian and Romanian are broadcasted daily.

TVR Cluj still produces (and TVR3 retransmits) the weekly program "**Shalom**", in Romanian, about the Jewish community, a unique program in the entire Romanian media landscape.

• **Broadcasts in the languages of other national minorities:**

Until the setting up of the TVR3 channel, the Department for Programs for other minorities only produced programs in Romanian about ethnic communities in Romania, while territorial studios in Cluj and Timisoara produced and broadcast weekly programs in Hungarian, German, Serbian and Romanian on a regional frequency (split on TVR 2).

By creating TVR3, broadcasts in minority languages were introduced in the new channel schedule and can now be enjoyed throughout the country. To the broadcasts mentioned above, other weekly broadcasts in Bulgarian, Croatian (produced by TVR Timisoara), Russian, Turkish, Tatar, Greek (produced by TVR Bucharest), Czech, Slovak and Ukrainian (produced alternatively by TVR Cluj and TVR Timisoara) were added on November 9 on TVR3. All these programs are translated and subtitled in Romanian, so that they can be enjoyed by all viewers, regardless of nationality.

The Romany language "Traio Romano" program, lasting 34 minutes, is broadcasted on TVR3 three times a month, alternatively produced in the TVR Timisoara, TVR Cluj, and TVR Bucharest studios. Also on TVR3, in Bucharest, a monthly broadcast in Romanian is produced, covering the most important events related to the following communities: Polish, Italian, Armenian, Albanian, Macedonian, and Ruthenian.

Arad TV station broadcasts in Bulgarian a 30 minutes fortnightly show.

The Union of Croats in Romania intends to open a TV station in their mother tongue, through the Caras-Severin county cable system, which will cover the localities inhabited by Croats in Romania.

In addition to the programs produced and broadcasted by TVR for the Roma minority, the 'Pro Europa' Roma Party produces the weekly show "Caravan of Roma", lasting 3 hours, which is broadcasted on a high-audience private TV channel in the country and in the Romanian diaspora. "Since 2005 over 180 shows and 360 hours of broadcasting have been completed, over 600 reports, 35 cultural reports, 235 social surveys, 5 solved social cases, 20 information and awareness raising campaigns for Roma access to public services, 150 interviews with personalities from the political, social and cultural life, meetings with the Parliamentary Group of national minorities about the social and economic situation of the Roma have been produced and presented "⁵⁶.

⁵⁶ Quote from the Report sent to DIR by the PRO EUROPE Roma Party

Also for the Roma community, two TV stations in Bistrita Nasaud and Drobeta-Turnu Severin broadcasted between 2004 and 2008 one hour shows, 2 times per week.

Private TV cable companies broadcast TV channels from countries with the same language as the minorities: for example, the Italian minority has "(...) also access through cable TV to the following programs in Italian: "Italia 1", "RT4 ", "Canale 5", etc."⁵⁷; in the report drafted by the Union of Croats in Romania it is mentioned that "through cable television, which is available to almost all localities inhabited by Croats, we have access to 3 programs in the Croatian language. "Localities with compact Lippovan Russian communities have access to television programs from the Russian Federation, while schools in these localities benefit from access to educational programs through antennas received through the Project "TV Școlinic" – a project implemented by the Community of Lippovan Russians in Romania in partnership with the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Romania"⁵⁸.

Between 8 and 13 February 2009, the National Council for the Audio-Visual monitored the news programs of the main TV channels, by tracking three indicators: the presumption of innocence of those accused of crimes, the privacy of the person or family and the mentioning of the ethnicity of the assumed delinquents. In its meeting on 3 March, the National Council of the Audio-Visual decided to sanction several TV stations that violated the provisions of the Broadcasting Code. Article 46 was invoked - (1) "the dissemination of any form of anti-Semitic or xenophobic manifestation in the audiovisual programs is prohibited. (2) any discrimination on grounds of race, religion, nationality, gender, sexual orientation or ethnicity in audio-visual programs is prohibited." Article 30 of the *Broadcasting Code* was also invoked, which states that "broadcasters shall respect human rights and fundamental freedoms and shall not take advantage of the ignorance or goodwill of the people". Also, the organization of a public debate with the leadership of the news departments of TV stations on these issues was decided (online newsletter *DIVERS*, March 6, 2009 - www.divers.ro)

Article 10. Use of minority languages in public administration and justice

New regulations have opened the possibility to use minority languages in justice, and people are more and more aware of this option. In practice, Hungarian is used in the areas with higher concentration of speakers - the Covasna, Harghita and Mures counties. There are no relevant statistics in the courts of law concerning the use of Hungarian language, but it is known that concrete examples exist. The lawsuits may be conducted in Hungarian if all the parties involved know the language, whereas the documents of the session are drawn up in Romanian.

Concerning the use of minority languages in local governments, the following details are particularly relevant:

A. Local government authorities: in 6 counties - Bihor, Covasna, Harghita, Mures, Satu Mare, and Salaj - over 20% of citizens belong to one of the national minorities. In 417 municipalities - cities, towns, villages in 21 counties – over 20% of

⁵⁷ Quote from the Report sent to DIR by the Association of Italians in Romania "RO.AS.IT"

⁵⁸ Quote from the Report sent to DIR by the Community of Lippovan Russians in Romania

citizens belong to national minorities. Here citizens belonging to national minorities speak Hungarian, Romanian, Slovak, Ukrainian, Serbian, Russian and Greek.

Currently the use of minority languages in relation to citizens belonging to national minorities has been enforced in 9 county councils and 341 local councils. Also, mother tongues can be used in relation to citizens in 663 subordinate structures of county and local councils, and also in the 153 decentralized public services of ministries and other central government bodies at the level of administrative-territorial units.⁵⁹

Mother tongue is used in the activity of local government authorities in the following situations:

- making public the agenda of 8 county councils, and 219 local councils, respectively;
- conducting meetings of 6 county councils and 231 local councils;
- bringing to public attention or communicating normative decisions by the representatives of 4 county councils and 148 local councils, as well as decisions with an individual character in 7 county councils and 197 local councils.

There are 285 local councils, county councils and subordinate bodies of local councils that receive petitions in minority languages (in 14 counties); of these, 254 also answer petitions in minority languages.

The display, by local governments, of the names of localities and public institutions under their authority in minority languages (under Art. 76, Para.(4) of Law 215/2001) is witnessing progress: there are 469 municipalities (cities, towns, villages) in 21 counties, and 569 public institutions whose names are also printed in the languages of national minorities (where they make up more than 20 % of the population). Also, in 13 counties, there are 567 local government authorities, respectively public institutions subordinated to county councils or local councils, which make public information also available in national minority languages⁶⁰.

There are 4848 employees (in 26 counties) who use the language of citizens belonging to national minorities, at the level of local government and subordinate structures.

II. Use of mother tongue in relation to citizens belonging to national minorities⁶¹

HUNGARIAN: in the county councils of Bihor, Covasna, Harghita, Mures, Satu Mare, Salaj and Sibiu employees speak Hungarian, and are able to respond to both verbal and written requests from citizens belonging to the Hungarian minority.

Meeting agendas are made public also in Hungarian by the county councils of Bihor, Covasna, Harghita, Mures, Salaj, Satu Mare, Sibiu, and Suceava.

⁵⁹ Data sent to DIR by the Ministry of Internal Affairs

⁶⁰ Data sent to DIR by the Ministry of Internal Affairs

⁶¹ Data sent to DIR by the Ministry of Internal Affairs

In the county councils of the Covasna, Harghita, Mures, Satu Mare, Salaj, Sibiu, meetings are also held in Hungarian.

Decisions adopted by the county council are published in Hungarian by the county councils of Covasna, Harghita, Mures, and Salaj.

The publication of decisions with an individual character is ensured in county councils of Bihor, Covasna, Harghita, Mures, Salaj, Sibiu, and Suceava.

The local governments of Arad, Bacau, Bihor, Brasov, Covasna, Harghita, Maramures, Mures, Salaj and Timis answer to requests of citizens belonging to a national minority in their respective mother tongue.

In local councils and their subordinate bodies in the counties of Alba, Arad, Bacau, Bistrita, Brasov, Cluj, Covasna, Harghita, Maramures, Mures, Satu Mare, Salaj, Sibiu, and Timis, a significant number of employees speak Hungarian.

BULGARIAN

In local government authorities in the Timis County, people speaking Bulgarian and able to answer to petitions of Bulgarian citizens in their mother tongue were hired.

UKRAINIAN

In some of the public local government authorities in Botosani, Caras-Severin, Maramures, Suceava, and Tulcea counties employees also speak Ukrainian.

In the Caras-Severin, Maramures and Tulcea counties local government authorities answer in Ukrainian to petitions by citizens belonging to the Ukrainian minority.

RUSSIAN

In local government authorities from Constanta and Tulcea counties employees also speak Russian. In the Tulcea county, local government authorities answer in Russian to petitions of citizens of the Russian minority.

SERBIAN

In some of the local governments in the counties of Caras-Severin and Mehedinti there are employees who speak Serbian.

In Caras-Severin and Timis counties, local government authorities answer in Serbian to petitions of citizens belonging to the Serb minority.

CROATIAN

In Caras-Severin, local government authorities answer in Croatian to petitions of citizens of the Croatian minority.

SLOVAK

The local government authorities in Arad and Bihor counties answered in Slovak to the petitions of citizens belonging to the Slovak minority.

B. Public services provided by administrative authorities - territorial structures for public order and safety⁶²

BULGARIAN

In the territorial structures for public order in the areas with high concentration of communities of ethnic Bulgarians, a framework for the use of the Bulgarian language has been set up. Thus, at the Caras-Severin, Sibiu, and Timis County Police Inspectorates, there are police officers who speak Bulgarian and who are able to facilitate dialogue with citizens of Bulgarian origin.

CZECH AND CROATIAN

In the Caras-Severin County Police Inspectorate, it was considered appropriate to hire several policemen who know / speak Czech and Croatian, thus being able to ensure the communication with minority citizens, by admitting and processing their written requests.

GERMAN

At the level of the Border Police, there are areas where, although ethnic German citizens represent less than 20% of the total local population, professionals proficient in German were recruited. Thus, at a percentage of 1% of German speakers in Maramures County, the Border Police Inspectorate of Maramures has recruited 13 agents, speakers of this language, who operate mainly in areas where the language is spoken. Also, to ensure the respect for the right of persons to have access to public information, at the Border Police Inspectorate of Bihor, a total of 54 persons are able to speak German; the number of requests made in German was however relatively low. Most employees who speak German operate at border crossing points or in structures that come in direct contact with the public, in order to appropriately address all requests.

At the Police Inspectorate of Alba, the necessary conditions for speakers of minority languages were created, so that they can submit verbal or written requests and receive responses in these languages, alongside the response sent in Romanian.

For the police officers working in police subunits training courses have been organized for the learning of minority languages spoken within the Alba County. Requests of police officers, speakers of a minority language, to be assigned to the area where that language is spoken, were taken into account.

In the counties of Cluj and Olt, the percentage of people belonging to the German minority is less than 1%, but to facilitate the dialogue with ethnic German citizens, 20 officers and agents who speak the language were recruited by the Cluj County Police Inspectorate. The Olt County Police Inspectorate employs 1 officer whose knowledge of German is of real help in ensuring the respect for the rights of ethnic German citizens to submit requests in their mother tongue.

The implementation of legal provisions concerning the right of citizens belonging to national minorities to use their mother tongue in dealings with public authorities is

⁶² Data sent to DIR by the Ministry of Internal Affairs

also noted in Timis County. Thus, one German policeman is employed by the Timis County Police Inspectorate.

The Sibiu County Police Inspectorate also employs German speaking policemen, although ethnic German citizens in this county do not amount to 20% of the population. In 2009, the leadership of the Sibiu County Police Inspectorate decided that German classes for beginners would be included among the training courses of staff of the public relations departments.

HUNGARIAN

In the Satu Mare county, Hungarian is spoken by at least 20% of the population. Given the structure of the population and taking into account the legal provisions in force concerning the right of citizens belonging to national minorities to use their mother tongue in relation to the administrative authorities, the Border Police Directorate of Sighetu Marmatiei has created the framework for implementing the above-mentioned provisions. In July 2008 the Satu Mare County Border Police Inspectorate received one written petition in Hungarian, from a person of Hungarian nationality.

In the Maramures County Hungarian is spoken by 9.1% of the citizens. The Maramures County Border Police Inspectorate employs 46 Hungarian-speaking officers, particularly in the localities where this language is spoken.

In the area covered by the Bihor County Border Police Inspectorate, ethnic Hungarian citizens have a share of at least 20% of the total population. The inspectorate employs 289 border guards who speak the language. Most commonly, border guards get into contact with members of the Hungarian community during border control. Also, the employees of the inspectorate provide information in Hungarian to applicants calling at phone no. 959.

In Cluj County, ethnic Hungarians may use their mother tongue in dealings with the Police Inspectorate, although their percentage is 17.4% of the population. To date, the Cluj County Police Inspectorate has received neither requests from Hungarian-speaking citizens to carry out a dialogue in Hungarian, nor any written requests in Hungarian. In the case that, in the future, Hungarian citizens will address written or verbal requests to the Cluj County Police Inspectorate in their mother tongue, their requests will be resolved in Hungarian, as there are 38 active agents and officers who speak Hungarian.

The Covasna County Police Inspectorate hired Hungarian speakers for positions involving interaction with members of the public - community police, policemen in the Public Relations Department, policemen in the Department of crime analysis and prevention. Also, each police subunit (including police stations) benefits from the services of at least one Hungarian speaking person. Citizens may submit verbal or written petitions in Hungarian, as staff of the Covasna County Police Inspectorate are able to meet such demands. In legal proceedings the parties involved benefit from the support of a certified translator, who provides the translation of statements and other documents.

Hungarian speakers may present to the Covasna County Police Inspectorate valid documents issued in Hungarian (e.g. testaments, civil contracts, land register statements, agricultural register statements, official documents issued in Hungary, etc.).

Currently, Covasna County Police Inspectorate does not make public administrative documents available in Hungarian or in bilingual versions, but the leadership of the institution is willing, at the request of ethnic Hungarians, to take the necessary steps to make these documents available in Hungarian as well. Booklets and leaflets containing crime prevention information are presented by Covasna County Police Inspectorate also in Hungarian or bilingually. Representatives of the institution have initiated a series of recruitment campaigns encouraging Hungarian youth to enroll in police schools in Campina, Cluj-Napoca, and the Police Academy 'Alexandru Ioan Cuza'. Policemen proficient in Hungarian will be posted to areas where the language is spoken extensively. Also, at least one person speaking Hungarian was appointed to each police subunit (including police stations).

At the Harghita County Police Inspectorate the situation is as follows:

- currently 20% of the staff is made up of ethnic Hungarians;
- public relations staff that use Hungarian in relations with ethnic Hungarian citizens (they receive verbal and written requests, and draft responses in Hungarian);
- for retrieving and distributing 112 calls requiring police intervention units, the five operator positions are staffed by Hungarian speaking police officers;
- aware of the important role of proximity police, Harghita County Police Inspectorate took steps to ensure that the subunits in whose jurisdiction the Hungarian population represents a high proportion be also staffed by speakers of the Hungarian language;
- in criminal investigation activities, Harghita County Police Inspectorate representatives ensured the use of Hungarian for people who involved in criminal proceedings;
- 5600 printed documents, in Hungarian and Romanian, were published in the framework of targeted prevention programs and projects;
- in 2006 two competitions were held for open vacancies for Hungarian speaking police agents; these positions were fully occupied.

At the Mureş County Police Inspectorate competitions were organized for filling open positions of police officers and agents by the candidates of Hungarian nationality. Currently, 5 police officers and 49 police agents of Hungarian nationality are employed by the Mures County Police Inspectorate. Employees of the Mureş County Police Inspectorate attended Hungarian language courses organized in the training centers of the Ministry of Interior, so that currently 20% of the staff of these police units speaks Hungarian.

In the Salaj County Police Inspectorate a series of measures were taken to ensure the use of Hungarian in the relations between Hungarian minority citizens and structures of public order:

- the necessary human resources have been provided for the translation into Hungarian of responses to petitions addressed by the ethnic Hungarian citizens;
- the presence of Hungarian speaking employees at hearings held at the Salaj County Police Inspectorate was assured;

- advisory activities were conducted in Hungarian, in the communities with high numbers of citizens belonging to this ethnic group, in the areas of competence of the police;
- Hungarian language knowledge is a relevant criterion for appointment and promotion of staff employed in the police units of the Salaj County
- the educational or recruitment offer of the police was advertised in the media also in the Hungarian language;
- in the areas inhabited predominantly by ethnic Hungarian citizens, the police structures employed ethnic Hungarian citizens.

In the counties where ethnic Hungarian citizens amount to 20% of the total number of residents, representatives of other public services make sustained efforts to ensure the respect for linguistic rights. Thus, given the specificities of the activities of the Romanian Gendarmerie, which involve direct contact with the public, a significant number of Hungarian speaking personnel were employed by this institution.

An example of good practice in this area is given by the National Archives⁶³. Thus, in counties where ethnic Hungarian citizens represent 20% of the total population - Bihor, Covasna, Harghita, Mures, Satu-Mare, Salaj - officials in charge for public relations activities speak also Hungarian. The right of persons of Hungarian origin to submit in writing, in their mother tongue, requests for reconstituting individual rights, based on archival documents, is guaranteed. The translation of these requests in the official language of the state is provided by the structures established at county level. The responses to requests in Hungarian are written in Romanian, and are translated upon request also in Hungarian.

Concerning requests for information of public interest in Hungarian, under the provisions of Law no.544/2001 on the *Free access to public information*, republished, the answers to these can be made also in Hungarian.

In the territorial structures of the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations⁶⁴ set up in localities where ethnic Hungarian citizens represent at least 20% of the total population (in the Covasna, Harghita, and Mures counties), the use of the Hungarian language is provided in receiving written/verbal requests in Hungarian. Responses to these requests are formulated in Romanian. 35% of existing positions in the territorial structures of the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations are occupied by citizens of Hungarian nationality or speaking that language. Informative document concerning civil protection and fire prevention are also published in Hungarian. Advertisements for vacancies in territorial structures are also published in Hungarian. Moreover, in the Commission for organizing competitions for filling vacancies in the county inspectorates of Satu Mare, Bihor, Mures, Covasna and Harghita, speakers of Hungarian were also appointed.

The protection of linguistic rights is also ensured at the level of the National Agency for Cadastre and Real Estate Publicity (NACREP) which, through its territorial structures, took the necessary steps in this respect. Thus, NACREP decided to employ

⁶³ The National Archives are organized at territorial level, in county directorates, as independent structures in each of the counties of the country

⁶⁴ General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations is organized at territorial level, in Inspectorates for Emergency Situations, in all counties.

Hungarian speaking civil servants, able to receive and process the different requests or petitions made in Hungarian, and to formulate appropriate responses in this language. The measure was taken in the administrative units where ethnic Hungarian citizens represent more than 20% of the population, but also in those where this percentage is not met, such as the Alba, Bihor, Brasov, Harghita, Mures, and Salaj counties.

A successful initiative in the use of minority languages in administration belongs to the Institute for the National Minorities Issues Research, which started in 2008 the project "Forms printed in Romanian and Hungarian". This refers to the use of minority languages in those units of local government in which the number of citizens belonging to national minorities exceed 20% of the total population, according to the law (information from the webpage of the Institute - www.ispmn.gov.ro). In a first phase, the most frequently used forms within local governments were made available in bilingual version (Romanian and Hungarian).

From the point of view of the content, the forms are grouped in thirteen chapters, thus covering a wide range of issues that citizens can take to the local government authorities: agriculture, guardianship authority, commerce authorizations, information centers for citizens, parking, marital status, citizen evidence, fees and taxes, urban planning etc. The institute plans to expand the project so as to include other languages of national minorities as well.

Regarding the activity of the National Authority for Consumer Protection, according to the data submitted, there are no standardized forms for complaints in minority languages, but:

- at the Covasna, Harghita and Mures County Offices for Consumer Protection within the Mures Regional Inspectorate for Consumer Protection, consumer complaints can be received in Hungarian and answers may be sent in Hungarian, at the request of the interested persons; also, consumer information leaflets have been published in Hungarian;

- at the Satu Mare Regional Inspectorate for Consumer Protection Hungarian-speaking staff is available; persons not sufficiently proficient in Romanian are assisted in filing out complaint forms.

- at the Sibiu Regional Inspectorate for Consumer Protection complaints can be received in Hungarian.

RUSSIAN

The Border Police is the only institution of public order and safety of the Ministry of the Interior in which speakers of Russian are present. Translators specialized in the Russian language work in particular in those departments providing public relations services and also in international institutions.

In 2008, eight police officers in the Botosani Border Police County Inspectorate and Suceava Border Police County Inspectorate took Russian classes; in 2009, eight other police officers attended the same classes. These measures taken by the territorial structures of the Border Police are part of the process of continuous improvement and training of police officers, so they are able to enforce the legal provisions relating to the use of minority languages in the relations between citizens and state authorities.

43 employees of the Iasi Border Police County Inspectorate speak Russian; responses to requests and demands made by ethnic Russian citizens are translated in collaboration with translators. At the existing border crossing points on the territory of the Iasi county, standardized forms published in Romanian and Russian are distributed.

94 speakers of Russian work at the Galati Border Police County Inspectorate. At the border crossing points of the Galați county, information of interest to persons crossing the border are displayed in Romanian and Russian. Also, standardized forms of "refusal of permission to enter the territory of Romania" are printed in Romanian and Russian, under the provisions of EC Regulation no. 562/2006⁶⁵.

The use of Russian in the relations between citizens and the structures of public order and safety of the Prahova County are maintained by the 23 County Police Inspectorate employees who speak the language.

SERBIAN, SLOVAK, AND TURKISH

In the areas where Serb, Slovak and Turkish citizens do not amount to 20% of the total population, the territorial structures of the Border Police still employs persons who speak the respective languages.

UKRAINIAN

Ukrainian citizens represent 6.7% of the total population of the Maramures county. In this context, the County Police Inspectorate employs 80 persons who speak Ukrainian, especially in localities where ethnic Ukrainian citizens represent a significant number.

A similar situation is encountered in the Botosani, Suceava and Tulcea counties. In police stations operating in localities where communities of Ukrainian citizen are concentrated, there are also employees who speak Ukrainian.

Article 11. The use of the minority language to indicate traditional names

As regards the obligation of the local public administration to display the name of the localities and public institutions under their authority, based on Article 76 paragraph (4) in Law no. 215/2001, there are 469 localities (municipalities, cities, communes) in 21 counties, and 569 public institutions respectively, whose names are also displayed in national minorities language that represent at least 20% of the number of inhabitants. On the other hand, in 13 counties there are 567 local public administrative authorities and public institutions subordinated that assure displaying public interest announcements in the national minorities languages.⁶⁶

⁶⁵ EC Regulation no. 562/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of March 15, 2006, establishing a Community Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code), published in the Official Journal of the European Union no. L. 105/13.04.2006.

⁶⁶ Data sent DRI by the by the Ministry of the Administration and Interior

Within local public administration and in some structures subordinated to these, respectively, in 26 counties, 4 848 persons knowing the mother tongue of the citizens belonging to national minorities are employed.

In the material submitted to the Department for Interethnic Relations, the organizations members of the Council for National Minorities did not report any problems related to the use of traditional names.

Article 12. Multicultural and intercultural dimension of education

As mentioned in the *Thematic Comment on Education* of the Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention, education is one key factor for promoting intercultural relations and increasing the good understanding among all ethno-cultural groups. In this respect, one of the priorities of the Ministry of Education and Research (now the Ministry of Education, Research and Youth), in the context of the reforms pursued between 2004 and 2008 was the "Promotion and enhancement of cultural diversity in education"⁶⁷. In connection with this objective the following have been achieved:

- the development of a *training of teachers scheme* both nationally and locally, as well as extracurricular and community development activities stated in the county components of the project PHARE 2003 and PHARE 2004 "Access to education for disadvantaged groups";
- in the revised plan (June 2005) of the *Decade of Roma Inclusion*, the Ministry has proposed valuing and preserving Roma cultural heritage by introducing topics aiming to *prevent and combat discrimination* in the school common core curriculum. In some chapters of the curricula the development of interethnic and intercultural exchanges and relations are recommended;
- the development of the project "*Teaching history and education for democratic citizenship in Romania*". The actions covered training for history teachers (100 teachers participated in training programs organized) in the context of democratic citizenship, publication of educational documents, reviews of historical sources, and ways of implementation of democratic values in schools. The National Society of History Teachers – CLIO – was also created;
- the continuation of the project "*The European dimension in history teaching*", funded by the Council of Europe, where research for collecting historical data was carried out, creating a collection of CDs concerning European historical sources and a guide for teachers who teach the history of Europe;
- further education on *Holocaust issues* by distributing supporting documents in schools, organizing school competitions and initiating domestic and international training courses for teachers;
- The participation of the Ministry, as partner, in projects with external funding to promote intercultural learning and diversity in education (partnership with organizations like Amare Rromenza and Romani CRISS)
- participation to a program funded by the Council of Europe "*The image of the other in history teaching*", which runs from 2006 to 2009 along two components:

⁶⁷ Romanian Government, *Report about the fulfillment of the stipulations of 2005-2008 Governing Program*, 2008, (www.guv.ro)

The Impact of Islam in European society and Controversial issues in the image of the other; the project will be completed with a teacher's manual.

In 2007, at the proposal of the State Secretary for education in minority languages and for relations with Parliament, two important documents were approved: the Education Minister's Order 1528 / July 2007 on promoting diversity in education, and Minister's Order 1540 / July 2007 on banning school segregation of Roma children and approving the Methodology for preventing and eliminating this phenomenon. County school inspectorates were instructed to implement them.

During the school year 2008 - 2009, national minorities that benefit of education in native languages are the Hungarian, German, Ukrainian, Serbian, Slovak, Czech, Croatian, Bulgarian, Roma and Italian. It should be noted that, at the request of the Italian community, the first class with tuition in Italian as mother tongue was set up at the bilingual high-school *Dante Alighieri* in Bucharest in 2007. In the school year 2008-2009 there were two classes with tuition in Italian as mother tongue - the 5th and the 6th - in addition to the intensive Italian classes (as modern language).

In April 2008, by the Education Minister's Order 3774/2008, the curriculum for intercultural education in Romania was approved, including an optional course for majority and minority middle school students, in Romanian. The curriculum was proposed by the *National Centre for Curriculum and Assessment in Higher Education*, focusing on the student as the subject of the educational process, and includes the following components:

- framework objectives pursued throughout secondary education (from the common core school curriculum developed for the middle school discipline *Civic Culture*);
- benchmarks formulating expected results of learning through the study of optional subjects;
- examples of learning activities, that propose ways of organizing and carrying out teaching with students;
- learning content, as means by which the idea to achieve framework objectives and established benchmarks is achieved.

The new curriculum was discussed by the authors with representatives of school inspectorates, teachers and NGOs specialized in interethnic and intercultural dialogue during the seminar "*Intercultural education and democratic citizenship in schools*", organized by DIR between 10 and 15 August 2008 at Predeal, with the support of the Timisoara Intercultural Institute and the Regional Centre *Project on Ethnic Relations*. Practical conclusions about teaching the course in schools emerged on this occasion.

It should be noted that many NGOs promoting the rights of persons belonging to national minorities have chosen intercultural education as a favorite theme. Among these, successful and innovative projects were developed by the Intercultural Institute Timisoara, the Ethnocultural Diversity Resource Centre (Cluj), the *Divers* Association (Targu Mures), the PER Regional Centre (Bucharest and Targu Mures), the *Educatia* 2000 + Centre (Bucharest), the *Pro Europa* League (Targu Mures), the Prosper ASE Association (Bucharest), Euro Ed (Iasi) and the AIESEC student association in Romania.

In recent years, more and more universities in the country have introduced the initial training of BA, MA and PhD for intercultural education. Such courses are held especially in faculties of pedagogy, psychology, science education, sociology and others. The best known are those of the Universities Iasi, Timisoara, Cluj, Bucharest (UNESCO Chair for Intercultural and inter-religious exchanges), and Sibiu.

Fostering the intercultural dialogue through education was one of the main themes of Romania's participation to the 2008 - *European Year of Intercultural Dialogue* (see the special page for main events organized in Romania at www.dialog2008.ro). The Department for Interethnic Relations of the Romanian Government, the British Council in Romania, the French Institute, the Information Office of the European Parliament, the Intercultural Institute Timisoara, the Ethno cultural Diversity Resource Centre, the Regional Centre PER, the Centre Educatia 2000 + developed interesting projects throughout the year, mostly in the informal education sector.

An example is represented by the educational programs developed by the Department for Interethnic Relations, 9 out of the nearly 20 activities organized and financed through the campaign 2008 - *European Year of Intercultural Dialogue*.

As mentioned above, one of the exceptional results in terms of knowledge and intercultural development in the field of education is the preparation of the first auxiliary teaching document for teachers on The history of national minorities in Romania, completed and printed in December 2008.

The material was developed with the direct contribution of a group of teachers belonging to national minorities (excluding the Ruthenian minority, who was not involved in the project) and specialists from *Divers* Association and the Regional Centre PER, coordinated by renowned historians. Preparatory steps have been supported for about two years by the Ministry of Education and the Department for Interethnic Relations. The material was printed in Romanian by the Didactic and Pedagogic Printing House and includes a DVD with documents and historical sources for history teachers teaching in general secondary education, so in particular to majority students.

Also at the end of 2008, the Ministry of Education approved the school curriculum for this course, which is optional (as in the course of History of communism, History of the Holocaust, etc.), and is taught in the tenth grade. The program, developed by the Institute of Educational Sciences, is part of the curriculum area *Man and society*, aiming to familiarize students with an approach based on multi-perspective and intercultural history. Key milestones in the development of this curriculum were: the Education Minister's Order 1528/18.07.2007 on promoting diversity in education, intercultural dialogue, the White Paper adopted by the Council of Europe in May 2008 and the Council of Europe Recommendation no. 15 / 2001 on the teaching of history.

It is worth noting that the authors did not wish the material to be structured as a series of chapters describing each minority. The development of the book was itself a cultural exercise, conducted around the following integrative themes:

- origin and settlement of minorities in Romania;
- identity elements of the minorities;

- history and development of relations with other minority communities;
- contribution to general and local heritage;
- mutual perceptions in the collective imaginary.

The content is organized thematically, and has a generative approach: they do not target a minority or a group of minorities, but cover common issues and developments concerning the relations between minority and majority, and identity issues seen in broader context. Analysis of the elements which constitute the political and cultural identity of minorities in Romania is a factor contributing to the understanding, ownership and positive valuing of Romanian cultural diversity by the young.

Roma situation and intercultural education

- *The Department for Interethnic Relations*, in partnership with the *National Agency for Roma*, carried out in 2008 a public information campaign entitled *Know the Roma before you judge them!*. As part of this campaign five short documentaries and a radio / TV commercial were realized, concerning the most important aspects of the Roma minority in Romania: history and traditions, migration, culture, access to education, employment and public health services, issues of discrimination and forms of participation to public life. Documentaries have been aired and discussed in some TV shows on a television station with national coverage in prime-time. A number of public figures who are active in the field of ethnic relations took part in the debate, while an even higher number of experts gave their consent to be interviewed on film. Among them were included representatives of state authorities, researchers and academics, representatives of NGOs but also representatives of Roma with successful professional achievements. Participation of these persons valorized the approach of the two institutions. The objective of the campaign was twofold: to generate further debates and improve communication between the participants (government, non-governmental and members of the Roma community) involved in enhancing the integration of the Roma minority in Romania, and to raise public awareness (especially of the youth) to the many problems that the Roma minority faces, aiming at the same time to identify solutions for their situation.

- The partnership between the *Department for Interethnic Relations* and the *National Agency for the Roma* was extended by organizing an itinerant photo exhibition entitled *The Roma: past, present and future* (August-October 2008). The approximately 100 photographs depict the trades and traditions of Roma, their poverty and social exclusion, and include images from the period of slavery and from the Holocaust. The photographs also show images taken during educational, cultural and multicultural programs, designed to create a better future for people belonging to the Roma minority in Romania.

- The *Romanian Institute for Research on National Minorities*, in partnership with the *Department for Interethnic Relations* and other institutions, organized in July 2008 a summer school entitled 'Come closer!'. The program aimed to assess the current level of public awareness concerning Roma issues, as well as to assess the image of the Roma. Participants in this summer school - approximately 150 experts, students and researchers - discussed in several workshops the following topics: Roma culture, language and educational policies as agents of positive change, the most appropriate research methodology for Roma communities, mechanisms of social inclusion, the special status of Roma women, discrimination, identity, migration,

literature and Roma history etc. As part of the programs designed to improve public awareness and understanding of the complexity of problems facing the Roma, this summer school has contributed to widening the space for constructive debates in this area. Also, the fact that an increasing number of researchers from Romania choose to focus on the Roma issue is an encouraging feature, especially since this creates the premises that the policies and recommendations are part of an academic approach.

Article 13. Management of the private education and training establishments

Romania encourages the development of private education of the persons belonging to national minorities as well as the right to set up and manage their own private educational and training establishments.

Such an example is the Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania, which is the independent university of the Hungarian community in Romania, aiming at providing education to the members of the community and performing scientific research on a high professional level. This university is a model from the point of view of the quality of the knowledge offered to the students, for the future of the teaching staff, for the quality of the research activity and for transparency.

On the 3rd of October 2001 the Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania held its first opening ceremony of the academic year. Since then, the number of academic programmes and students has grown annually: in the academic year of 2010/2011, a total number of 1940 students were enrolled in 29 programmes, in 3 study centres (Mercurea-Ciuc, Targu-Mures, Cluj-Napoca) and within 4 faculties, under the guidance of 270 academic staff from Romania and abroad.

Article 14. Learning and teaching minority languages

The Ministry of Education adopted a series of measures aimed to support the education of Roma minority.

Learning Roma language

Currently, 400 Roma students attend preschool and full time education in mother tongue – Romany – and other 30,000 study 3-4 hours per week the language, history and traditions, with more than 420 Roma teachers. This is a good example of collaboration between the Ministry of Education and various organizations representing the Roma communities.

To prevent school absenteeism (A), which - through its daily, weekly, monthly and quarterly forms - leads to school abandonment (AS), the Ministry of Education has taken several measures to reduce and eradicate absenteeism and school abandonment (ASA) among the Roma, such as:

1. The Training and hiring of Roma human resources in education, whom by their presence among the Roma community and Roma students, have increased the motivation for school attendance, namely:

- Roma school mediators (from the approx. 280 that existed in December 2005, other 612 were trained in addition, thanks to the financial contributions of the Ministry of Education, the National Agency for Roma and UNICEF-Romania). During the period of reference, between 420-510 mediators for the Roma education/schooling (80% of them were Roma) have been employed annually;
- teachers of Romany language, literature, history and tradition (from the approx. 480 existing in December 2005, other 620 have been trained in the period of reference, during summer courses, with financial contributions from the UNICEF-Romania and the Ministry of Education). During the period of reference, between 460-530 teachers of Romany language and history (of which 95% Roma) have been employed annually;
- the schoolmasters and teachers for the PPNS (Pedagogy for the primary and nursery schools), trained through distance education programs by the CREDIS Department of the University of Bucharest and the Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj Napoca. Compared to the 120 previously trained personnel at the University of Bucharest before 2005 (90% of them were Roma), other 160 have graduated university as schoolmasters - teachers of Romany language (between 2006-2008, 80% of Roma origin); between 2008-2010, a number of 210 specialized personnel (60% being of Roma origin, opening the way to future teachers for primary education) have graduated from the new specialization PIPP (with a new Romany designed curriculum);
- training of future teachers/professors of Romany language for high school and university level through the maintenance of the Romany language teaching at university level, at the University of Bucharest (20-25 students admitted each year);
- maintaining and financing the inspectors' positions for Romany educational problems in the Counties School Inspectorates (CSI) - (42 inspectors, of which 35% are Roma);
- maintaining the network of methodologists for Romany language, history, traditions and the schooling of Roma people (126 persons, 2-6 methodologists by each county, of whom at least one for the Romany language, history and tradition);

2. Thanks to increasingly available Roma human resources in the educational system, as a result of the many educational programs addressed to Roma, the attendance of Roma students has generally increased, and doubled compared to 1990 (see the comparative table *):

The schooling of Roma people in a comparison with the teaching of Romany language and history language during the period 1990 - 2009 **

School year	No. of Roma students with assumed Roma identity	of whom: no. of Roma students who have studied the language or the history and the traditions of Roma minority, some of them entirely in the Romany language	Observations
2008/2009	235. 008	31.665, of whom 380 have studied entirely in their mother tongue, Romani	- the reduction of the Roma effective is caused by the fluctuations generated by the parents going abroad and the return of the Roma children to the system.
2007/2008	263. 409	26.805, of whom 320 have studied entirely in their mother tongue, Romani	
2006/2007	260. 105	25.525, of whom 140 have studied entirely in their mother language, Romani	
2005/2006	243.008	24. 903	
2004/2005	220.000	24.129	
2003/2004	183.176	20 528	
2002/2003	158.128	15 708	
1989 /1990	109.325	50	

** The data for the school years 2009/2010 and 2010-2011 are being processed at the moment.

3. Increasing school attendance by Roma students by motivating them to study Romany language classes as mother tongue or even to study entirely in this language.

This accomplishment (as results from the above table) was achieved through:

- The preservation of Romany language, history and culture in the teaching process (providing the continuous teaching of 3-4 hours/week of Romany language, at I-XII classes, respectively one hour per week of Roma history and traditions, to the VIth and VIIth grade). From the 230,000 - 260,000 Roma students with assumed identity (preschool and school children of Ist - XIIth grade), annually approx. 11-13% have classes of Romany language and history or they study entirely in their Romany mother tongue.
- Further support, upon request, of full teaching in the Romany language, for Ist -IV th grade (4 compulsory hours per week of Romany language and literature; 430 Roma students have chosen this type of education, i.e. 1.7% of the 26,000 hours of language and /or history and tradition).
- Further support, upon request, in teaching in the Romany language at primary school level, through bilingual approach (Romany – Romanian). In 12 kindergartens Romany is taught as mother tongue, with bilingual teaching approach (Romany - Romanian, Romany - Hungarian) – these are Ineu (Bihor County, 1 group.), Măguri (Timișoara County, 2 groups.), Sarulesti (Călărași County, 1 group), Dărmănești (No.1 School in Bacău, Bacău County, 1 group), School Lady Maria Bacău (Bacău County, 1 group), Gutinas Kindergarten - Stephen the Great Village (Bacău County, 1 group), Rădoaia Kindergarten - Parava Village (Bacău County, 1 group), Ciurea Kindergarten (Iași County, 1 group), Zece Prăjini Kindergarten (Iași County, 1 group), Crucea Kindergarten (Iași County, 1 group). In 2004, the first group of this kind was created at the kindergarten in Sărulesti (Călărași County), subsequently extended in 2006 to two kindergartens in Iași County, three kindergartens in Bacau County and two kindergartens in Timis County etc.
- The continuation of funding school competitions for the two studied disciplines, the National school Olympics of Romany language, the XIth edition and the national contest school of Romany history and tradition, the third edition, each for 104 participants for the final national phase, of the Fourth Edition of the National Contest "Diversity", all having had previous phases at school /city /county / regional level.

4. Increasing the participation of preschool Roma children to the educating process through:

a. preparatory summer kindergartens (both at the schools' and county's inspectorates initiative, but also in the context of educational PHARE mega-program for disadvantaged categories of students, from September 2002 - March 2010). Such kindergartens were developed to help the future Ist grade pupils, who for various reasons have not frequented kindergarten, to have the opportunity of a second chance (the summer kindergarten, which lasts 3-4 weeks). Thus, in 2008, schools have attracted 2,400 Roma pupils (through the PHARE program) and other 5800 (through the Department of Minority Education of the Ministry of Education), who did not attend regular kindergarten, but who were successfully enrolled, after the summer program, in the Ist grade of the school year 2008/2009.

This structure (patented by the Minorities Department and UNICEF in the summer of 2001) is rather an “extreme” school intervention and not the usual – Roma preschoolers are normally directed to the regular system (small, medium and preparatory groups).

The summer kindergarten continued during the summer of 2009, and in the summer of 2010 it became a great success, thanks to the cooptation of 8400 Roma children who had not attended a kindergarten and who were to accede in the first grade (in the school year 2010/2011), in the strategic program "All in kindergarten!, all in the first grade!" initiated by the Ministry of Education Research, Youth and Sports and The Ruhama Foundation Oradea.

b. Another form of involving the Roma preschool children into the educational process was organized by Save the Children Foundation (financed by the European Structural Fund), which ran summer kindergartens to 'grow' the children's taste to attend kindergarten. 800 Roma children attended the program in the summer of 2009 and 2010, being subsequently enrolled in the appropriate kindergarten group (small, medium, preparatory).

c. An unprecedented form of organizing summer kindergartens, in the last four years, was the one piloted by the organization "Amare Rromentza," also with European funds. The educational process in the kindergartens was conducted in the Romany language (bilingual approaches Romany - Romanian, Romany - Hungarian), as well as the one that followed in the usual kindergarten or primary school system, organized by the NGO in partnership with schools.

d. another way to attract Roma preschool children to kindergarten or school was the one practiced by Ovid Rom organization, who has annually held summer schools for Romany children and non-Romany alike, involving both children that are already enrolled or those that are not.

5. Motivating Roma secondary school students' to attend school and university, by:

A. reserving seats for Roma candidates on their admission to:

- high schools with various specializations (annually, there have been between 2500 to 2600 students admitted in the ninth grade thanks to this system);
- university (492 different seats were offered to young Roma in the university year 2009-2010; 555 seats were available in the 2010-2011 university year);

B. The granting of scholarships offered in several programs, such as:

- a. National Scholarship Program of the Ministry of Education "Money for school;
- b. the national scholarship program, initiated and developed during the years 2009 and 2010 by the National Agency for Roma, with funding from the European Structural Fund, for the students of the VIIth, VIIIth grades and high school students (800 scholarships + 2400 scholarships);
- c. The scholarship program run by the Center for Roma Community Resources (CRCR) Cluj Napoca (between 2008 - 2010, for Roma high school students coming from 12 Transylvanian counties), with funding provided by the Open Society Institute (Soros);

- d. scholarship program for students developed by OSI Budapest for Roma students.

6. The development, beginning with the year 2010, with the help of the Ministry of Education and UNICEF, of a special program in school units predominantly with Roma population (at least 51%), regarding the decrease of ASA (absenteeism and school abandonment), which seeks to form about 840 school principals and as many school mediators. There were 100 school principals and 135 new school mediators trained in 2010.

Developing these types of human resources has a key importance within communities, as they are the essential segments of the “educational pentagon” (as importance and responsibilities):

1. the local public administration (public guardian, community /proximity police),
2. the school director;
3. the Kindergarten educator/schoolteacher/ teacher / tutor /school mediator /school counselor,
4. the mayor and the councilors,
5. the family.

7. The continuing organization and financing of school recovery classes like "The Second Chance" (starting from October 2005, annually), involving children, adolescents, young and adults coming from Roma communities, who attend literacy courses and completion of studies, as well as vocational classes, level I- IX (annually a number between 4820-7980).

8. Continuing the collaboration with partners (the National Agency for Roma, Save the Children, Romani Criss, Ruhama, REF Romania, CRCR etc.) in organizing, financing and carrying out educational programs.

In the recent years, the annual budget allocated to the educational system has grown to approx. 6% of the national GDP.

One of the most profound changes in the field of education is the decentralization of schools⁶⁸. Decentralization follows three levels - the transfer of authority, of responsibility, and of resources, by granting schools increased powers of decision, with the participation of all interested local factors.

In the recent years, new school curricula were developed and promoted, as well as a number of textbooks for the disciplines *Native language and literature* and for *Culture and traditions* for national minorities, covering the entire range of undergraduate education: grades 1-12, schools for arts and crafts etc.

In line with the 2006 *Thematic comment on education* by the Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention, Romanian authorities continued to improve the access of minority children and youth to all forms of education, first and foremost to mandatory education; and to promote social support programs (school transportation, free school

⁶⁸ **Teaching for the linguistic communities in Romania in 2006-2007 and 2007-2008**, paper realized by the Ministry of Education, Research and Youth and the Regional Center PER, coordinated by Lazlo Murvai and Maria Koreck, 2008

supplies for students from low income families, financial assistance amounting to 200 Euros for the purchase of computers by pupils and students, etc.).

Many of the above measures, coupled with others - such as the use of language textbooks from kin-states - have helped to reduce specific problems of numerically small minorities, which faced difficult situations in previous years.

Special efforts were made for Roma children and youth: school participation of Roma increased from 3.5% of all pupils enrolled in undergraduate education in 2002-2003 to 7.43% at the end of the school year 2006-2007. The number of Roma students studying the language and traditions of the Roma and Roma history and traditions also increased proportionally. There are also groups that have switched to full Roma language study (100 of Roma students per year in grades 1-4 and 40 preschoolers each year). Affirmative measures to ensure seats for Roma in high schools and colleges were maintained, the number of places increasing from year to year.

Regarding the financing of higher education, the following measures aimed at increasing accessibility were taken: increasing funds for scholarships, allowances for transportation and accommodation, upgrading accommodation facilities, differentiated funding for education conducted in minority languages (indicator 2 for funding teaching in Hungarian language and 2.5 for teaching in German, to the value of 1 for the education in Romanian); state-funded seats for young undergraduate Roma (in the 2008-2009 academic year 493 seats were allocated, compared to 454 in the 2007-2008 academic year).

1. Education of Roma children – the way to a stable employment

Implementation: 36 months

Value: approximately 5 millions Euro

It is a **trans-national project** implemented for period 2008-2011 by the National Agency for Roma, in partnership with Roma Education Fund, Ministry of Education, Research and Youth, Resource Centre for Roma Community and Pakiv Association in Romania.

The overall objective is to increase the level of education of Roma children in rural and urban area, the human capital development in order to include them in a modern and flexible labor market, by ensuring access to education and reducing early school leaving.

The target group is represented by the Roma pupils in rural and urban areas

Expected outcomes:

- Ensure equal access to education for 1,200 Roma pupils in gymnasium with a high rate of early leaving school risk, by providing financial support, additional training and motivate them to remain in educational system;
- Increase the opportunity to attend high school for a total of 600 Roma pupils in the last year of gymnasium by developing mentoring services, personal development and counseling in accordance with their specific needs
- Support in order to continue the education for 2,400 Roma people, who have early left school, by facilitating their access to programs of "The second

chance" in order to obtain basic skills and knowledge necessary to integrate on the labor market.

2. School – a chance for everyone

Implementation: 36 months

Value: ca. 2,5 millions Euro

- **The project proposes more measures in order to prevent early school abandon of children in vulnerable groups** in 20 counties of Romania. This transnational project implemented in partnership with the International Association Step by Step, the Ministry of Education, Research and Youth, the Centre for Education and Personal Development Step by Step and the Agency for Community Development "Together".

Technical education in the minority languages is well represented by programs in Hungarian. Development of specialized technical classes in minority languages is encouraged.

Thanks to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports' involvement, there has been progress in regard of education in the Ukrainian language. The Ukrainian high school "Taras Shevchenko" in Sighet, Maramures county, was re-established, facilitating training of Ukrainian language educators and schoolteachers, with a view to providing the schools in Maramureş and Sighetul Marmăţiei with qualified teachers.

Ukrainian language and literature studies are conducted at the University of Bucharest, Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, and the University "Stefan cel Mare" in Suceava, to ensure the required number of teachers who will teach the Ukrainian language, literature, history and the Ukrainian minority traditions.

In the future, textbooks and teaching material in the Ukrainian language will be developed. This involves the preparation and publication of workbooks, methodical books, dictionaries, collections of literary texts, spelling books, audio books comprising Ukrainian stories and proverbs, and Ukrainian songs.

Thanks to the Ministry of Education's efforts, there has been progress in regard of education in Turkish. The old Muslim Seminar from Medgidia, the county of Constanta, was reestablished, now named the National College "Mustafa Kemal Atatürk". It trains educators, teachers and imams, ensuring the need of qualified teaching staff and imams for the counties of Constanta and Tulcea.

In the context of intergovernmental exchanges in science, culture, education of 1997-2001 and based on the understanding between the ministries of the two countries, the vocational teaching in the National College "Mustafa Kemal Atatürk" Medgidia is conducted by teachers coming from Turkey.

German-language education is part of a traditional system of units and sections in the languages of minorities. It includes children and young people from the German minority, being open to Romanian children or those belonging to other minorities,

under the condition that the parents or legal custodian choose, according to the law, this form of education.

In 2009, a Program of Old Rite Orthodox religion in pre-university school units was initiated.

Art. 15. Effective participation of persons belonging to national minorities to public life

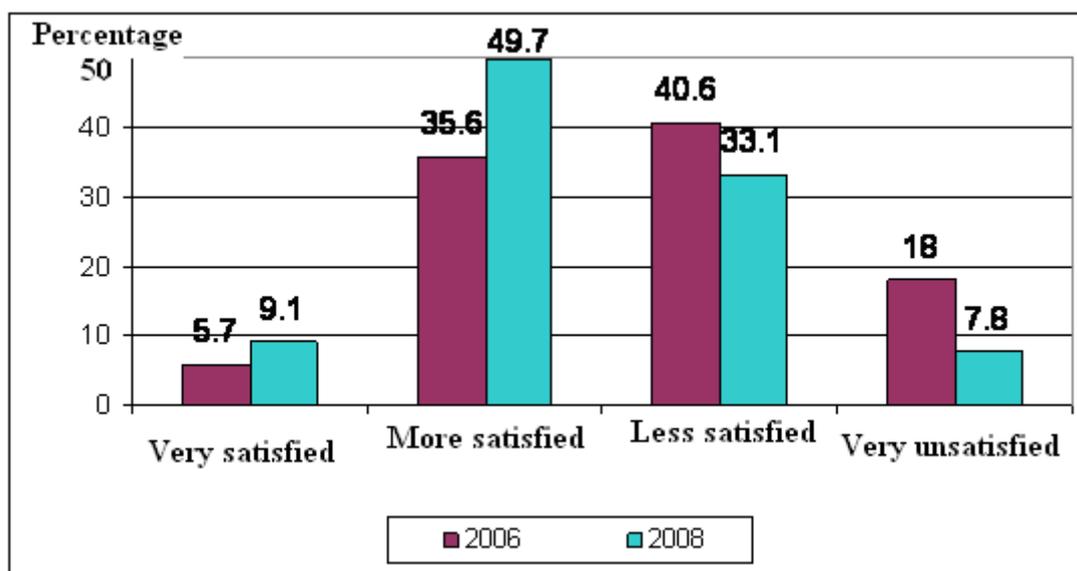
All positive developments in the last 20 years would not have been possible without the effective, permanent and responsible participation of the representatives of minorities to the public life, through the mechanisms at their disposal: parliamentary representation, a consultation mechanism with the Government (through the Council of National Minorities), elected local bodies and civil society.

As noted in the *Commentary on the effective participation of persons belonging to national minorities in cultural, social, economic and public life*⁶⁹, adopted in 2008 by the Advisory Committee, the degree of participation of minorities in all spheres of public life is a barometer of the pluralism and democracy in society. In Romania, effective participation of minorities has been enhanced in the last 20 years; positive experiences in the social and economic, cultural and public life can be mentioned.

Regarding the participation to social and economic life, a survey conducted in October-November 2008, under the title "Social cohesion and interethnic climate in Romania"⁷⁰, conducted by the Research Centre for Interethnic Relations in cooperation with the Institute for Research on National Minorities, shows that there are no significant differences between the standard of living of Romanians and Hungarians. The survey was conducted on a representative sample of Romanians and Hungarians from Romania. Cumulative responses to the question "How satisfied are you with your current living conditions?" (compared to 2006 to 2008 at national level), were as follows:

⁶⁹ Commentary No. 2 - *The effective participation of persons belonging to national minorities in cultural, social and economic life and public affairs*, adopted on 27 February 2008 by the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

⁷⁰ Center for Interethnic Relations Research in collaboration with the Institute for National Minorities Studying, "Social cohesion and interethnic climate in Romania", sociology investigation developed in October-November 2008, coordinator of the research team – Marius Lazar



When asked "How satisfied are you with your current living conditions?", 6.7% of Hungarians and 7.8% of Romanians said they were very unsatisfied, 30.7% of Hungarians and 33.1% of Romanian responded that they were rather dissatisfied, 57.1% of Romanian and 49.7% of Hungarians said they were less satisfied and 4.9% of Hungarians and 9.1% of Romanians said they were very satisfied.

Concerning socio-economic life, the system for the prevention and combating discrimination was consolidated recently, including in the fields of employment and occupation. The measures for the implementation of the *Government strategy for improving the situation of the Roma* continued and marked progress in integrating the Roma. Once EU structural funds begin to be absorbed in eight development regions of Romania, there are chances of recovery for poor and depopulated areas inhabited by minority groups, affected by the regression of economic sectors. Cross-border cooperation, involving largely multiethnic local communities, has a growing dynamic.

Participation to cultural life, through ensembles of all types, personalities, direct representation among local decision makers, local mechanisms for consultation and collaboration, access to media, probably represents the field where the presence and visibility of national minorities is most evident. A crucial step in this area was taken in 1993 through the creation of the Council of National Minorities (CNM), when minority organizations began to receive funds from the state budget, at a time when the Romanian civil society had no alternative funding sources. Without exception, CNM organizations consulted by DIR when drafting this report stated that without the support of the Romanian state they could not exist, and could not re-discover and value their language, culture and traditions, integrating into the current cultural environment. Romania's experience in terms of minority participation to public life is probably one of the most interesting and innovative in Europe. Romania wants to maintain and enhance the system of national minority participation by improving the consultative mechanisms; this implies maintaining the affirmative measures – such as reserved parliamentary seats – at the level of political representation, by encouraging Roma to engage in more and more institutional structures at national and local level, by maintaining the governmental department specialized in the protection of persons belonging to national minorities.

Concerning parliamentary elections, the Romanian electoral system was reformed in 2008 by Law 35, establishing the transition from a proportional voting system to a mixed one (uninominal and proportional). Regulations designed to ensure representation of minorities in the Chamber of Deputies, provided for by the Romanian Constitution, were maintained in the current electoral law.

After the November 2008 parliamentary elections, national minorities in Romania continue to be represented in the Chamber of Deputies and in the Senate. The Democratic Union of Hungarians in Romania (DUHR) has one distinct group in the **Senate** and one in the **Chamber of Deputies**:

- **The Senate** - 9 mandates, corresponding to the counties: Bihor - 1 mandate, Covasna - 2 mandates, Harghita - 2 mandates; Mures - 2 mandates; Satu Mare - 1 mandate, Salaj - 1 mandate. The mandates were obtained as a result of 440,449 valid votes;

- **The Chamber of Deputies** - mandates allocated in 22 counties: Arad - 1 mandate, Bihor - 3 mandates; Brasov - 1 mandate, Cluj - 2 mandates; Covasna - 3 mandates, Harghita - 4 mandates; Maramures - 1 mandate; Mures - 3 mandates, Satu Mare - 2 mandates; Salaj - 1 mandate; abroad - 1 mandate. The mandates were obtained with a total of 425,008 valid votes.

The Parliamentary Group of National Minorities of the Chamber of Deputies is composed of 18 organizations of citizens belonging to the national minorities, the same as in previous elections, according to the *Minutes of the Central Electoral Bureau* dated December 5, 2008, as follows:

The Democratic Forum of Germans in Romania – mandate obtained in Sibiu with a total number of 23,120 valid votes obtained throughout the country;

The Democratic Union of Slovaks and Czechs in Romania - mandate obtained in Bihor with a total number of 15,373 valid votes;

The Union of Poles in Romania - mandate obtained in Suceava with a total number of 7,670 valid votes;

The Bulgarian Union of Banat - Romania, mandate obtained in Timiș with a total number of 14,039 valid votes;

The Lippovan Russian Community of Romania - mandate obtained in Tulcea with a total number of 9203 valid votes;

The "Pro-Europe" Roma Party - mandate obtained in Galati with a total number of 44,037 valid votes;

The Democratic Union of Turkish-Muslim Tatars in Romania - mandate obtained in Constanta with a total number of 11,868 valid votes;

The Federation of Jewish Communities in Romania - mandate obtained in Neamt with a total number of 22,393 valid votes;

The Union of Croats in Romania - mandate obtained in Caras-Severin with a total number of 9,047 a number of valid votes;

The Union of Serbs from Romania - mandate obtained in Timis with a total number of 10,878 valid votes;

The Union of Ukrainians in Romania mandate obtained in Maramures with a total number of 9,338 valid votes;

The Turkish Democratic Union of Romania - mandate obtained in Constanta with a total number of 9,481 valid votes;

The Association of Macedonians in Romania - mandate obtained in Neamt with a total number of 11,814 valid votes;

The Association of Italians in Romania - RO.AS.IT. - mandate obtained in Botosani with a total number of 9,567 valid votes;

The Union of Armenians in Romania - mandate obtained in Arges with a total number of 13,829 valid votes;

The Cultural Union of Ruthenians in Romania - mandate obtained in Hunedoara with a total number of 4,514 of valid votes;

The Association League of Albanians in Romania - mandate obtained in Suceava with a total number of 8,792 valid votes;

The Hellenic Union of Romania - mandate obtained in Galati with a total number of 8,875 valid votes.

The relatively high number of votes obtained in the general elections by each organization of citizens belonging to national minorities reflects a positive image of their communities.

No change occurred in the composition of the Council of National Minorities, which has advisory status. It still comprises 19 organizations of national minorities.

In 2005 – 2008, the Democratic Union of Hungarians in Romania (DUHR), member of the Council of National Minorities, was part of the ruling coalition. In this context, DUHR designated a vice-prime-minister, three ministers and several secretaries of state in the executive. Following the parliamentary elections in late 2008, DUHR joined the opposition, from where it continued the specific work of promoting the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. Although DUHR was not part of the ruling coalition at that time, a presidential adviser for national minorities was appointed to the Presidential Administration (a premiere in this regard). In the local elections held in June 2008, organizations of persons belonging to national minorities obtained the following results, according to the Minutes of the countrywide centralization of votes and validation of the results in local and county council elections, presidents of county council and mayors' elections, issued by the Central Electoral Bureau on July 3, 2008.

Total number of seats allocated to mayors:

1. The Democratic Union of Hungarians in Romania - 184 mandates,
2. The Democratic Forum of Germans in Romania - 10 mandates;
3. The "Pro Europe" Roma Party - 2 mandates;
4. The Union of Croats in Romania - 1 mandate;
5. The Bulgarian Union of Banat - Romania - 1 mandate;
6. The Lippovan Russian Community of Romania - 1 mandate;
7. The Hungarian Civic Party⁷¹ - 11 mandate.

Total number of seats allocated to local councilors:

1. The Democratic Union of Hungarians in Romania – 2,195 mandates;
2. The Democratic Forum of Germans in Romania - 79 mandates;
3. The Union of Ukrainians in Romania - 11 mandates;

⁷¹ The Hungarian Civic Party represents the interests of Hungarian citizens in local public administration authorities, being set up in accordance with Law no. 14/2003 on Political Parties, with all modifications and completions.

4. The "Pro Europe" Roma Party - 202 mandates;
5. The Lippovan Russian Community of Romania - 14 mandates;
6. The Bulgarian Union of Banat - Romania - 8 mandates;
7. The Democratic Union of Slovaks and Czechs in Romania - 14 mandates;
8. The Union of Croats in Romania - 6 mandates;
9. The Union of Poles in Romania - 3 mandates;
10. The Union of Serbs in Romania - 6 mandates;
11. The Hellenic Union of Romania - 1 mandate;
12. The Democratic Union of Turkish-Muslim Tatars in Romania - 2 mandates;
13. The *Hungarian Civic Party* - 489 mandates;
14. The *Alliance for Roma Unity* - 1 mandate;
15. The *Democratic Union of Ukrainians in Romania* - 1 mandate.

Total number of seats allocated to county councilors:

1. The Democratic Union of Hungarians in Romania - 89 mandates;
2. The Democratic Forum of Germans in Romania - 9 mandates;
3. The Hungarian Civic Party - 19 mandates.

Total number of seats allocated to the county councils presidents:

1. The Democratic Union of Hungarians in Romania - 4 mandates;
2. The Democratic Forum of Germans in Romania - 1 mandate.

The allocation of mandates to organizations of citizens belonging to national minorities that are not members in the Council of National Minorities, such as the *Alliance for Roma Unity*, and the *Democratic Union of Ukrainians in Romania*, stands proof that other organizations can also represent the interests of the communities they are part of and can freely participate to the public life.

On the other hand, it is noted that a large number of persons belonging to the national minorities obtained mandates in the local elections as candidates on the lists of parties or political alliances other than their minority organizations, thanks to legal regulations allowing this option. In these cases, which can be encountered in many parts of the country, locally elected persons have relied on an increased support for their community projects from various political parties.

The implementation of the government program 2005-2008 in the field of interethnic relations has led to strengthening the legislative and institutional system for the protection of rights of persons belonging to national minorities. DIR has organized a series of activities designed to stimulate and facilitate the participation of minorities to the public life; DIR has also facilitated the participation of representatives of the national minorities to the major inter-ethnic programs developed by the international bodies.

DIR has continued its goal-oriented activity - by thematic programs - in the following areas:

a). Initiation and management of programs aimed at ensuring and maintaining the right to free expression and development of the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of persons belonging to the national minorities. The

number of programs initiated and organized by DIR in 2008 was 21 (14 of them were part of Romania's campaign for the *European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008*, an initiative of the European Union). In 2005, 2006 and 2007, DIR has initiated and organized approximately 40 interethnic programs and programs to fight against intolerance, some of them in partnership with the civil society. Most programs were related to the spheres of non-formal education, culture and youth.

b). Enhancing cooperation at European and international level in the field of human rights, including rights of persons belonging to national minorities, with institutions and organizations such as the Council of Europe (CoE), the European Union (EU), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the United Nations (UN), the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI), Project on Ethnic Relations (PER), the Hanns Seidel Foundation etc.

Collaboration with the Council of Europe - both with the *Secretariat of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities* and the *Secretariat of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages* - was one of the most active and effective:

- in **March 2006**, DIR has organized in Braşov, with the support of the Secretariat of the Framework Convention, the seminar *Participation of national minorities to public life; the role of consultative bodies*, which enjoyed broad international participation. The event took place during Romania's Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe;

- in **December 2007**, DIR has organized in Bucharest, also with the support of the Secretariat of the Framework Convention, the follow-up meeting after the second cycle of monitoring, with the topic *Application of the Framework Convention for the protection of minorities in Romania - national results and prospects*;

- DIR was represented at most **DH-MIN** meetings organized in the last years and helped collecting the required data by this committee on various topics; has offered examples of good practices concerning the use of minority languages in communities, the visibility of national minorities in the media, etc.;

- in **March 2005**, a DIR delegation has attended in Strasbourg a working meeting with the specialized unit for the preparation of the instrument of ratification of the *European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages*;

- in **April 2008**, DIR has organized in Bucharest a roundtable with the title *The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. Implementation and Monitoring in Romania*, aimed at identifying instruments for its application and monitoring. To facilitate the debates occasioned by this meeting, the DIR printed the following documents in booklet form: the *European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages*; the law ratifying the *European Paper for Regional or Minority Languages*, the ratification law (in English), the booklet *"Let us speak regional or minority languages "*, published by the Council of Europe and translated into Romanian by DIR. Mr. Alexey Kozhemyakov, Director of the Department of Regional or Minority Languages of the Council of Europe and Mr. Stefan Oeter, Chairman of the Committee of Experts of the Languages Charter were present in Bucharest for this event.

In relation to the European Union, DIR has successfully applied for funding under the *Community Action Program to Combat Discrimination*, managed by the General Directorate for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of the European

Commission. Within this framework, being granted an average of 60.000 per project, DIR organized:

- in 2005, the *Diversity Week in Romania* event (media campaign, festival of minorities, photo exhibition and a seminar organized at the Romanian Peasant's Museum in Bucharest), in partnership with several organizations;

- in 2006, *The Diversity Caravan*, a competition program for students, involving all regional offices of the department and three multi-ethnic schools in each region;

- in 2007, the summer school *Take attitude, stop discrimination*, held in Sibiu, with the participation of lecturers and students from Romania and various EU member states.

DIR has initiated and organized several programs included in the European campaign **2007 - Year of Equal Opportunities for All**, and in 2008 was remarked as the most active promoter of Romania's **European Year of Intercultural Dialogue** campaign.

In 2008, DIR has participated in the drafting of the national report assessing the human rights situation in Romania. The report was presented by the Romanian delegation, including a representative of the DIR, to the Human Rights Council (UN, May 2008, Geneva).

DIR also participates in the **UN Alliance of Civilizations program**, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. On May 26, 2009 a meeting was held to set up the working group for the promotion of the "Alliance of Civilizations" (AC) in Romania, under the provisions of the National Plan for AC, approved by the Romanian Government on March 26, 2009.

c). Promoting intercultural dialogue and good inter-ethnic relations through project-based activities. In 2008, the number of grant contracts concluded between the General Secretariat of Government – the Department for Interethnic Relations and different beneficiaries from the non-governmental sector was **78**. The year 2005 ended with about 40 interethnic project-based actions; in 2006, more than 100 projects were partly financed, while the figure in 2007 was approximately 80. These activities covered a wide range of issues and strengthened the partnerships with dozens of NGOs from all around the country. All regional representatives of the DIR were involved in this action.

d). Improving legal and institutional framework. The Department for Interethnic Relations and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have prepared the *draft law for the ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages*, a legal instrument of the Council of Europe signed by Romania in 1995. The Charter was ratified by the Law no. 282/2007, which reflects a differentiated solution to protect minority languages, providing protection to ten languages used in Romania, under Part III of the Charter: education, justice, administrative authorities and public services, mass-media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life, trans-border exchanges. Bulgarian, Czech, Croatian language, German, Hungarian, Russian, Serbian, Slovak, Turkish and Ukrainian are protected as minority languages. The provisions in the second Part of the Charter apply to the following national minority languages: Albanian, Armenian, Greek, Italian, Yiddish, Macedonian, Polish, Romany, Ruthenian and Tatar.

In addition, DIR has initiated a draft resolution for the organization and operation of the Institute for Research on National Minorities (GD 893 / 2007), established by the Governmental Order 121/2000. The institute is based in Cluj, is subordinated to the Government, and collaborates with DIR in order to carry out multidisciplinary research on sociological, historical, cultural, linguistic, and religious aspects related to national minorities in Romania.

DIR has also elaborated a series of draft laws through which 13 of the 19 organizations of the Council of National Minorities were granted the status of public utility foundations between 2007 and 2008.

e). Cooperation with various NGOs active in protecting the rights of national minorities became a successful tradition, based on partnerships between state institutions and civil society representatives. Collaboration envisages organizing joint projects aiming for an increased awareness of all Romanian citizens of ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious diversity, and thus reducing negative stereotypes and discrimination on racial or ethnic grounds.

The main NGOs that DIR has constantly worked with were: the Regional Centre *Project on Ethnic Relations* (Bucharest and Targu Mureş), the Ethnocultural Diversity Resource Centre (Cluj), the Pro-Europa League (Targu Mureş), the Centre Educația 2000+ (Bucharest), the Intercultural Institute Timisoara, the DIVERS Association (Targu Mureş), Prosper ASE (Bucharest), etc.

f). Cooperation and continuous consultation with the Council of National Minorities (CNM), the Government's advisory body, was made especially through specialized commissions: *the Commission for Education and Youth, the Commission for Culture, Denominations, and the Media, the Financial Commission, the Commission for Legislation and Public Administration, the Commission for Social and Economic Issues, the Commission for Relations with Civil Society and International Organizations*. DIR's activity included organizing monthly meetings with the representatives of national minority members in these committees and discussing different matters and proposals. Periodical meetings are held in order to inform the representatives of CMN about the latest events in the field of ethnic relations (e.g. the ratification of *European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages*, the launch by the Council of Europe of the *White Paper on intercultural dialogue*, etc.), or to debate various topics of common interest.

g). Providing financial assistance to organizations of the Council of National Minorities from the state budget, covering part of the following types of expenses: expenses for the functioning of organizations' headquarters and branches, maintenance and repair works, personnel costs, costs for the press, books, textbooks and publications, expenditure incurred by organizing cultural and scientific symposiums, meetings of members as provided by the statutes, other events organized in Romania and abroad, spending for investment in movable and immovable property necessary to conduct the activities of organizations.

The responsibility for the use and justification of spending lays, in accordance to the law, with the organizations of citizens belonging to national minorities, while the Department for Interethnic Relations monitors the expenditures.

According to the 2008 research carried out by the Ethno-cultural Diversity Resource Centre in Cluj, *“Policies for national minorities in Romania. Legal and institutional aspects in a comparative perspective”*, during 1994-2008, the organizations of the Council of National Minorities were allocated in total the equivalent of 345.088.000 RON, the amount increasing gradually over the years; in 2008 the total amount was 10 times higher than the one allocated in the first year of activity.

The Draft Law on National Minorities elaborated by DIR is evaluated at the level of the Romanian Parliament’s structures.

The Council of National Minorities continues to operate in accordance with Government’s Decision 589/June 2001 and Government’s Decision 1175/November 2001, as governmental advisory body without legal personality. On one hand, there were no initiatives to change the status and role of the Council, for which reason its capacity for action has remained relatively low. On the other hand, the influence of parliamentary minority groups gradually increased as compared to that of the Council of National Minorities. However, at the level of the executive, between 2005 and 2010, no major decisions related to national minorities were taken without prior consultation of the CNM.

The main topics of consultations were the draft Law on National Minorities, the ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, and the draft law on pre-university education. The Council organizations participated in the implementation and monitoring of the Framework Convention (see Part I of this report, points a. and b.), the seminars on the implementation of the Language Charter, as well as the programs organized in the framework of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue.

In 2008, the Romanian Government granted the status of public utility to a number of 13 organizations that are members of the Council of National Minorities. Since then, these associations have steadily developed partnerships with public institutions, particularly the Department for Interethnic Relations, with academic personalities and the civil society. Thus, cultural and scientific events, seminars, symposia, and debates were initiated and carried out providing persons belonging to national minorities with the opportunity to develop relevant activities in the sphere of culture, language, religion, education, and public life.

To date, these organizations have demonstrated that the programs and projects they have initiated and carried out allowed them to achieve their fundamental objectives - to promote appropriate measures so as to enable persons belonging to the national minorities from Romania to maintain and develop their culture and to preserve the essential elements of their identity (religion, language, traditions and heritage).

The granting by the Government of the status of public utility to organizations of national minorities citizens is a confirmation of the positive results obtained by them

in recent years, especially given that no regulatory framework was governing their particular status so far.

The programs initiated and conducted by these organizations contributed to the majority's increasing awareness of the values specific to the cultural heritage of the national minorities and to the promotion of ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious diversity in Romania, so as to strengthen positive interethnic relations.

Declaring such organizations as being of public utility is a benefit for ethnic communities in Romania, as they take an active part in strengthening the protection of national minorities.

Another novelty is that the DUHR and the 'Pro Europe' Roma Party participated in the European Parliament elections. In June 2009 the Hungarian community obtained 3 seats in the European Parliament.

Concerning the distribution of funds allocated from the state budget to the organizations of the Council of National Minorities, the authors of the study '*Policies for national minorities in Romania. Legal and institutional issues in a comparative perspective*' calculated that the Hungarian minority - who constitutes 63% of persons belonging to the national minorities in Romania - is assigned most of the funding, approximately 19%, if we consider all amounts allocated in the years 1994-2008. The representative Roma organization also received substantial amounts.

Regarding the degree to which the organizations of the national minorities were involved in obtaining non refundable grants from the DIR based on project proposals, on average for the years 2005-2008, the same study found that: nearly 60% of projects were initiated by the organizations of the Hungarian minority, 14% by the German minority, 6% by Lippovan Russians, and 4% by the Turkish-Tatar community, the rest being granted to other organizations.

In addition to the data from local and parliamentary elections held in 2008, above presented in more detail, in the contributions sent to the Department for Interethnic Relations for the present report, minority organizations reported a series of observations, as follows:

- **The Albanian minority.** There are members of the Albanian minority who hold public offices (in city councils, municipal or county departments, other institutions), but not as representatives of their ethnic group.
- **The Armenian minority.** The representative of the Armenian minority in the Parliament is also the leader of the Parliamentary Group of Minorities. From December 2007 to December 2008, Senator Vosganian also served as Minister of Economy and Finance (on behalf of the National Liberal Party).
- **The Bulgarian minority** has, in addition to the representative in the Parliament and to the locally elected officials, an advisor on Bulgarian minority issues working in the Timiș County Prefecture.
- **The Croatian minority** makes all efforts for its specialists to reach various local positions. It has an advisor working at the prefecture of Caraș Severin, providing assistance related to all minority issues in the area.
- **The German minority** had an outstanding performance in local elections. It produced the most popular mayor in the country - Mr. Klaus Johannis, re-

elected for a second term in Sibiu, with over 80% of the votes. He attaches great importance to economic aspects, sending representatives to local economic forums (e.g. the newly created Chamber of Craftsmen in Satu Mare). The Youth Organization of the German Forum operates autonomously, giving many young people the opportunity to become leaders. It has an Undersecretary of State in the Department for Interethnic Relations.

- In the case of the **Italian minority**, its involvement in economic life is more visible, their collaboration with Italian firms investing in Romania being very good. Involvement in cultural life is also notable.
- **Poles**, in addition to representation in Parliament and local authorities, have an advisor working at the Institution of the Prefect of the Suceava County.
- **The Roma minority** has focused heavily on local elections, achieving improved results: if in 2004, the Roma won 189 seats of local councilors, in 2008 they received 202; previously they did not obtain any mandate for mayor, but in 2008 they obtained 2. Also, the Roma minority is well represented at governmental level, through the National Agency for Roma and within the Roma National Centre for Culture at the Ministry of Culture and Denominations.
- **The Lippovan-Russian minority**, in addition to representation in Parliament and local structures, has representatives at the Prefectures of Braila and Tulcea, in the Ministry of Education and Research, at the Department for Interethnic Relations (an undersecretary of state and an advisor), the Ministry of Environment (an adviser to the minister), the County School Inspectorates of Tulcea and Braila. The phenomenon is not incidental, but evolutionary, as positions of deputy mayors and advisers within administration are more numerous after 2005.
- **The Serb minority** has two advisors dealing with problems of all minorities in the area - one in the Timiș County Prefecture and one in Caras-Severin. An interesting experience is the post of local councilor in Timisoara, obtained in coalition with the organizations of the Hungarian, Bulgarian, Ukrainian and Italian minorities in Timiș.
- **The Greek minority** is one of the communities very involved in the economic, cultural, and social life, in all the areas where their representatives are living.
- **The Turkish minority**, in addition to the representative in the Parliament and to the local elected representatives, has also minority advisers to the mayors of the county of Constanta, and an adviser for the Turkish minority to the prefect. They have representatives also at the level of the ministries (Ministry of Education, Ministry of Culture, etc.).
- **The Ukrainian minority** has, in addition to the elected representative in the Parliament and local officials, a specialist adviser on Ukrainian cultural matters in the Ministry of Culture, a special adviser on Ukrainian education in the Ministry of Education, an adviser to the Suceava Prefecture and one in the Maramureș Prefecture.
- **The Jewish minority**, similarly to other small organizations, has attracted many supporters, their representative in the Parliament obtaining over 20,000 votes in the elections. They significantly support the Jewish Youth Organization in Romania, which thus has the opportunity to engage actively in public life.

- **The Macedonian minority** supports the view that, thanks to the work of the Association of Macedonians in Romania, the presence of its members in public offices and their involvement in community life increased by 15%, whereas the number of correspondents working for the organization's publications also increased by 11%; finally, the number of young people working in the organization grew by 20%.
- **The Ruthenian minority**, like the Macedonian minority, has a representative in Parliament after 2000. The community leaders are very active in the European and world associations of Ruthenians.
- **The Tatar minority** is present, along with the Turkish minority, in the public life of the Constanta and Tulcea counties, although they consider that the number of their locally elected officials is below their potential. It should be mentioned that they actively support the youth organization, which functions within the Democratic Union of Turkish-Muslim Tatars.
- **The Hungarian minority**, the largest and best organized, is the most involved in all sectors of public life - parliament, government, local authorities, and civil society. Between 2005 and 2008, the main party representing the interests of Hungarians, DUHR, was part of the ruling coalition. The Hungarians were present in most of the executive structures, including the Department for Interethnic Relations (the positions of Secretary of State, advisors, and experts). In December 2008 they left the government, but continued to hold important positions in Parliament and local authorities, in social and cultural life. Note should be taken of the attention DUHR gives to promoting youth, from high-school students to locally elected young people. Dozens of Hungarian youth organizations are well experienced in project-based independent work and fundraising. As of 2007, the Hungarian minority has also sent representatives to the European Parliament.

To sum up, in recent years, the Council of National Minorities organizations have strengthened their position in public life in Romania, and have created a powerful material basis from funds received each year from the state budget. They have currently the necessary conditions to promote their language and culture, to manage their organizations according to their own programs. Their endowment and staff gave these organizations the opportunity to engage fully in the social, cultural, political and economic life in Romania.

Concerning the support for other organizations representing minority interests, but not part of the Council of National Minorities, this is carried out through grants awarded from the budget of the Department for Interethnic Relations to NGOs initiating projects to combat ethnic intolerance.

The selection of proposals is based on several criteria, including the existence of clearly defined, measurable and realistic objectives, relevant to interethnic relations, the complexity of project proposals, the degree of fostering intercultural dialogue, the ability to promote a positive attitude toward cultural diversity; the cohesion of objectives, proposed activities, expected results and resources used, etc.

The number of projects funded through this system increased from 40 in 2005 to around 100 in 2006, then 80 in 2007, 78 in 2008, 60 in 2009 and 90 in 2010. The projects covered diverse areas and helped establish useful partnerships with dozens of

nongovernmental organizations throughout the country. Programs over the past four years had the following main objectives:

- promotion of ethnic diversity, language and culture through film and theatre festivals, concerts, competitions of artistic creation, photography, fairs and exhibitions etc.;
- development of intercultural education, improvement of the intercultural communication skills through educational activities;
- promoting scientific research;
- involvement of the youth in the problems faced by national minority communities and promotion of the activities to combat intolerance;
- promoting the ongoing training of teachers working in schools with tuition in minority languages, and the training of trainers from national minority organizations;
- reflection of ethno cultural diversity in the media;
- consultations concerning the relations between local government and persons belonging to national minorities in Romania, etc.

Article 17. International contacts

Based on the data transmitted to the Department for Interethnic Relations by the organizations member of the Council of National Minorities, it becomes apparent that all communities maintained and developed in recent years a fruitful collaboration with their respective kin states, through embassies and consulates in Bucharest, Romania's embassies and consulates in those countries, through parliaments, universities, academies, etc. On the basis of bilateral treaties signed with various kin states of national minorities, there are many intergovernmental and inter-ministerial agreements that allow permanent collaboration in education, culture, youth, sport, etc.

Within this framework, there is intense collaboration at the level of schools and universities; summer/winter schools for learning languages and cultures, teacher training courses, study visits and exchanges of experience, artistic competitions and festivals, and sport competitions are organized; meetings with official delegations, with representatives of churches take place, works are edited and published. For example, a very active collaboration was established between Lippovan Russians in Romania and the Russian School, which functions within the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Bucharest. Young people of Greek, Turkish, Hungarian, German, Slovak origin in Romania receive scholarships to study at universities in their kin states, also at postgraduate and PhD level.

There is also intense direct collaboration with NGOs and publications from kin states, with ethnic associations in different countries, with international organizations. For example, the Democratic Union of Hungarians in Romania is a member of the European Democratic Union (EDU), of the Federal Union of European Ethnic Communities (FUEV), of the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO) and is also member of the European People's Party (EPP). The Union of Poles in Romania collaborates with associations of Poles from Ukraine, Republic of Moldova, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and France. The Democratic Union of Turkish-Muslim Tatars in Romania collaborates with similar organizations in Ukraine (Crimea - where native Tatars in Romania originate from), Turkey, Bulgaria, Cyprus,

the Russian Federation, Macedonia, Kazakhstan and the province of Kosovo. The Union of Croats Croats cooperates with Croats' associations from different countries.

Many minority organizations in Romania are affiliated with various Diaspora organizations. The Union of Croats is a founding member of the World Congress of Croats, created in 1992. The Union of Poles in Romania is a member of the Union of Polish communities in Europe and the World Council of Poles in the Diaspora. The Hellenic Union is affiliated with the World Council of the Hellenic Diaspora, the World Union of Parliamentarians of Greek origin, and its youth organization. Since 1991, the Union of Ukrainians in Romania is member of the World Congress of Ukrainians, based in Toronto (Canada) and since 1994 it is a founding member of the European Congress of Ukrainians. In 2001, the Union of Ukrainians in Romania became member of the Ukrainian World Coordination Council. The Federation of Jewish Communities in Romania has agreements with the Congress of Russian Jews, the Association of Jewish Organizations and Communities of the Republic of Moldova, the American Jewish Committee, and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. The Federation of Jewish Communities is a member of the European Jewish Congress, World Jewish Congress, and of the European Council of Jewish Communities. Since 2003, the Cultural Union of Ruthenians is member of the World Union of Ruthenians and cooperates with associations from different countries. The Armenian community, through the Union of Armenians in Romania and the Armenian Church, has connections with many organizations worldwide.

There are more and more dynamic relationships with companies and investors from kin states - good examples are the ones of the Italian, German, Greek, and Turkish communities. The Association of Italians in Romania, for example, is well connected with authorities from Friuli-Venice-Giulia, Lombardy, Emilia Romagna, Trento, and other areas from which Italians migrated to Romania.

Cross-border cooperation has developed, especially after the 2004 and 2007 EU enlargements. The Union of Serbs, the Union of Ukrainians, Hungarian organizations, the Union of Poles, The Union of Slovaks and Czechs are very active in the Euro-regions where they live. All these organizations work together in cross-border programs with ethnic Romanian associations in neighboring states.

Although not benefiting from any close connections with a particular country, the organizations of Roma in Romania (over 100) work with European Roma organizations and embassies of countries who offer support to project-based activities (the Netherlands, France etc.). Roma representatives in Romania are involved in the mechanisms and programs established by the Council of Europe, the European Union, OSCE, the World Bank and other bodies, to improve the situation of their communities and for a better integration in society. Roma elites are recognized throughout Europe as very well trained and involved in solving the problems of Roma, with an active contribution not only nationally, but also at European level.

The entire process of Romania's preparation for its accession to the European Union, which lasted about ten years, was supported by organizations of national minorities, among which worth mentioning are the German, the Greek, and the Hungarian ones. The Federation of Jewish Communities actively supported Romania's integration into

NATO. It can be said that, in the context of the developments taking place at regional and European level, national minorities constitute a binding factor, a promoter of knowledge, communication and collaboration, with beneficial effects for the stability and economic progress of the country and the region.