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**FOURTH REPORT SUBMITTED BY CROATIA
PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 25, PARAGRAPH 2
OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR
THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES**

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Government of the Republic of Croatia

**Fourth Report
of the Republic of Croatia on the Implementation of the Framework
Convention for the Protection of National Minorities**

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Introduction

Pursuant to Article 25 of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, the Republic of Croatia hereby submits its Fourth Periodic Report for the period from 2009 to 2013.

The Government of the Republic of Croatia has carefully considered the Third Opinion of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities as well as Resolution CM/Rescan(2011)12 of the Committee of Ministers on implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, adopted on 6 July 2011 at the 1118th meeting of the Council of Europe.

In order to comply with the recommendations from the last evaluation report, and having considered all remarks and proposals, the Government is resolute in its intent to meet its commitments and has continued with pursuing its policy of safeguarding and advancing national minority rights.

The Government of the Republic of Croatia approved the Third Report on Implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities on 16 July 2009. The Council of Europe Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities adopted its Opinion on Croatia on 27 May 2010. In this report, the Advisory Committee presented its main findings on key issues pertaining to the implementation of the Framework Convention in Croatia, as well as more detailed article-by-article findings and remarks and recommendations for the forthcoming period. In November 2010, the Council of Europe was presented with the Comments on the Third Opinion of its Advisory Committee on Implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by the Republic of Croatia.

In the preceding period, the national minority rights have improved in all facets. The Republic of Croatia continuously upgrades its system for protecting national minority rights as part of its legal and legislative framework, attempting to give maximum consideration to the views of national minorities, which has been confirmed by amendments to its Constitution and its Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities. Under the 2010 constitutional amendments, Croatia has improved the equality of persons belonging to national minorities, and its Preamble now expressly lists all 22 instead of only ten national minorities.

The progress made in implementation of the Framework Convention has also been facilitated by regular annual seminars organised by the Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities, involving participation by representatives from the Council of Europe Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. In order to express their views on this document, input to discussions held at these meetings was provided by representatives of national minority organisations and councils, national minority deputies in the Croatian Parliament and representatives of the Council for National Minorities on state level.

To enhance and improve implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities, the Government of the Republic of Croatia has adopted the Action Plan for Implementation of this Constitutional Act covering the period from 2011 to 2013.

By implementing the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities, the Republic of Croatia is also fulfilling its commitments under international treaties to which it is a party, in particular, the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

The drafting of Croatia's Fourth Report on Implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities involved participation by representatives from the Ministry of Public Administration, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Culture, the Council for National Minorities on state level, the State Office for Croats Abroad, the State Office for

Reconstruction and Housing Care, the Electronic Media Agency, Croatian Radio-Television and the Office of the Commission on Relations with Religious Communities.

The following national minority organisations have also presented their views on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities: the Union of Albanian Communities in the Republic of Croatia, the Community of Macedonians in the Republic of Croatia, the Bosniak National Community of Zagreb and the County of Zagreb, the Jewish Community in Zagreb, the Prosvjeta Serbian Culture Society and the Union of Slovenian Associations, as listed in Appendix 1.

PART I

OVERVIEW OF IMPROVEMENTS IN THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS BELONGING TO NATIONAL MINORITIES IN THE PRECEDING PERIOD

In the period since July 2009, when the Government of the Republic of Croatia submitted its last Report on Implementation of the Framework Convention, the active engagement of governmental bodies and national minority representatives has led to further improvements to the rights of national rights as well as the legislative framework governing their rights. Also, a number of measures have been undertaken to encourage the best possible implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities and other regulations. With a view to the fullest possible achievement of national minority rights, the Government of the Republic of Croatia has ensured the required implementing capacity in government bodies and increased, on a year-to-year basis, the funding allocated for the achievement of national minority rights.

On 8 April 2011, in an effort to facilitate the exercise of the rights for persons belonging to national minorities, the Government of the Republic of Croatia adopted the Action Plan for Implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities from 2011 to 2013, which was compiled in line with the recommendations from the European Union Common Position, Chapter 23 (Accession Conference). The task of submitting annual reports on its implementation was assigned by the Government to the Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities. The Action Plan consists of 12 sections and contains measures aimed at further strengthening the protection of national minorities, especially in the areas where shortcomings have been identified. To this effect, the defined measures have been significantly expanded compared to the previous Action Plan, and concrete objectives have been set to be achieved in the period from 2011 to 2013. The Action Plan also defines the implementing agencies and completion time-tables for each measure, as well as the funding required for their implementation. As its integral part, the Action Plan also includes forms for reporting the number of national minority members employed in civil service bodies at the central and local levels and in judicial bodies, which allows a regular and continued assessment of whether persons belonging to national minorities are represented in such bodies according to Article 22 of the Constitutional Act.

The Action Plan for Implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities from 2011 to 2013 contains the following sections: Official and public use of national minority languages and scripts; Education in national minority languages and scripts; Use of national minority insignia and symbols; Cultural autonomy; Right to practise one's religion and to establish religious communities with other members of said religion; Access to mass media; Self-organisation and association in an effort to further common interests; Representation of persons belonging to national minorities in representative and executive bodies at the central and local governmental levels, judicial bodies and the administrative bodies of local and regional governments; Participation of national minorities

in public life through national minority councils and representatives; Protection against any activity undermining the exercise of rights and freedoms by persons belonging to national minorities – Developing tolerance for diversity and combating discrimination; National Programme for the Roma and Action Plan for the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015; and General measures to uphold implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities and the Action Plan.

The Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities co-ordinated the preparation of a strategic document entitled the National Programme for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights for the period from 2013 to 2016, which was adopted in April 2013 and which, as one of its priority areas, also covers the rights of national minorities.

The National Programme draws on positive examples derived from the previous programme, but also the weaknesses identified and difficulties encountered in the implementation of certain measures. Also, as a follow-up to local and international observers' reports on the human rights situation, a number of challenges have been identified in the Republic of Croatia, especially with regard to the judicial reform process, the prosecution of war crimes, the reform of the human rights protection system, the situation of particularly vulnerable groups (women, children and disabled persons), the protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities and refugees, court cases related to discrimination and hate crimes, free legal assistance, co-operation with non-governmental organisations, the social integration of asylum-seekers, the protection of the rights of underage illegal migrants and the social inclusion of vulnerable groups.

The success indicators for implementation of the planned measures and activities have been adapted to the institutional capacity and actual capabilities of administrative bodies. The Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities will co-ordinate the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the National Programme, and will be responsible for preparing the annual Overview of Measures Implemented under the National Programme. The Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities is also in charge of the preparation of annual progress reports on the implementation of the National Programme.

In September 2013, a campaign entitled “NO to Internet Hate Speech” was launched to inform and sensitise the public – in particular, children and youths – about respect for human rights as well as the negative effects of hate speech on the Internet and the consequences of using discriminatory and unacceptable language. The campaign was designed during consultations within the National Committee for the Implementation of the Council of Europe's “No Hate Speech Movement” campaign and the meetings and seminars for national campaign implementation co-ordinators. The Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities takes an active part in the work of the National Committee and the implementation of the Action Plan for this activity. The members of the National Committee include representatives from different governmental bodies, media and NGOs. While the campaign primarily targets children and youth in cyberspace, its objective is to sensitize the broader public to the fight against prejudice and different stereotypes, including those based on ethnicity, and efforts to combat all forms of discrimination.

At its session of 29 November 2012, the Government of the Republic of Croatia adopted the National Roma Inclusion Strategy from 2013 to 2020, with the Action Plan for its implementation in the period from 2013 to 2015 being adopted at the Government's session of 11 April 2013. In addition, the Commission on Monitoring the Implementation of the Strategy was set up to monitor the implementation of all of its operational components.

In the preceding period, the Government of the Republic of Croatia has dedicated particular attention to implementation the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. Taken overall, since the first seminar on monitoring the implementation

of the Framework Convention to date, there has been significant progress in the improvement of national minority rights. At those seminars, persons belonging to national minorities had the opportunity to present their views and proposals and to point out the difficulties they encountered, as a result of which a positive step has been made toward the exercise of their rights.

A particular area where progress has been achieved is the participation of national minorities in cultural and public life and in the decision-making process.

The elections of members to the Croatian Parliament, held on 4 December 2011, resulted in the appropriate representation of deputies from among the ranks of national minorities, who were elected within a special, 12th constituency. Specifically, eight deputies from among the national minorities were elected in the special constituency in keeping with the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities and the Croatian Parliamentary Elections Act.

The deputies in the Croatian Parliament from among the ranks of national minorities were elected in line with the legislation in effect prior to adoption of the Amendments to the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities in June 2010. Specifically, these amendments included, *inter alia*, changes to Article 19, to the effect that it now stipulates that a minimum of three seats in the Croatian Parliament shall be reserved for representatives of those national minorities which, on the effective date of this Constitutional Act, account for more than 1.5 percent of the population of the Republic of Croatia and which achieves their right to representation on the basis of universal suffrage, whereas national minorities which account for less than 1.5% of the population of the Republic of Croatia shall, in addition to their right to exercise universal suffrage, be entitled to the special right to vote, enabling them to elect five deputies belonging to such national minorities from within their own special constituencies.

Through its ruling of 29 July 2011, the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Croatia rescinded the amended provision of Article 19 of the Constitutional Act and ordered that, pending the arrangement of issues contemplated in the revoked provisions, the rules set forth in Article 19 of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities should apply as they were in force before the effective date of the Amendments to the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities adopted in June 2010.

Once the proper by-elections were held in all local and regional governmental units where persons belonging to national minorities were guaranteed the right to representation in the representative and executive bodies of such units, the suitable representation of persons belonging to national minorities was eventually achieved.

The Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities has, in co-operation with the Council for National Minorities on state level, regularly organised seminars for national minority councils and representatives in order to create conditions for their effective participation in the decision-making process at the local and regional levels. The seminars involved participation by local and regional self-government representatives and served as forums for undertaking efforts to elaborate the forms of participation by national minority members in the decision-making process and for insisting on the creation of conditions for their effective functioning. In May 2012, as a collaborative effort with the Ministry of Public Administration, the National Public Administration School organised five regional seminars for national minority council members and representatives to raise awareness of their roles, rights and obligations. The seminars were held in Osijek (21 May), Lipik (22 May), Bjelovar (23 May), Čakovec (24 May) and Sisak (25 May), and were attended by a total of 114 participants. They served for additional discussions about the results of, and difficulties in, the functioning of national minority councils and representatives.

The cultural autonomy programmes of national minority organisations and institutions are financed through the Council for National Minorities on state level and the Ministry of Culture. Funding allocated from the central budget through the Council for National Minorities on state level to co-finance the programmes of national minority organisations and institutions serves as a significant contribution to implementation of cultural autonomy programmes. The funds allocated through the Council to national minority organisations and institutions were HRK 43,590,000.00 in 2009, HRK 41,843,800.00 in 2010, and HRK 41,336,318.00 in 2011. During 2012, more than 958 programmes were proposed as a result of the Public Call for Co-financing and a total of HRK 40,671,000.00 was spent through the Council for that purpose. Pursuant to the Decision of the Council for National Minorities on state level from 2013, a total of HRK 38,663,240.00 was allocated for implementation of cultural autonomy programmes by national minorities.

Persons belonging to national minorities are free to set up cooperation with their core nations and, indeed, cross-border cooperation accounts for a very significant part of their activities.

On 1 July 2012, the Republic of Croatia assumed the one-year Presidency of the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015. The Croatian Presidency's priorities included linking the Decade of Roma Inclusion to the EU Framework, linking the Decade's main educational achievements with the EU education policy and the status of the Romani language, linking the historical experiences of the Roma in Europe to the advancement of tolerance and non-discrimination of the Roma and involving Roma youth in tolerance and recognition campaigns. As part of the preparations for taking over the Decade's Presidency, a series of consultations were held, both with governmental administrative bodies and Roma NGOs. On 30 May 2012, a meeting was held with Roma NGO representatives to inform them of the role of the presiding country, the opportunities for NGO participation and the organisation of thematic workshops during the one-year presidency. The meeting was attended by approximately forty representatives of Roma organisations and national minority councils.

On 24 and 25 September 2012, Zagreb hosted the 23rd Meeting of the International Steering Committee of the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015. Along with governmental and Roma NGO representatives from the Decade participating countries, the meeting was also attended by a number of representatives of the Roma national minority in Croatia. Pursuant to the conclusions reached by the participating countries at the 23rd Meeting of the Decade's International Steering Committee and at the proposal of the Republic of Croatia, a Task Force was established to consider the future of the Decade of Roma Inclusion after 2015. The Task Force consisted of representatives from the Decade participating countries (Croatia as the presiding country, Hungary as a representative of EU member states and Serbia as a representative of non-EU countries), the Decade's international partners and NGOs, and was chaired by Croatia as the Decade's presiding country. As a result, two meetings were subsequently held in Zagreb: a meeting of the Task Force, which took place on 26 November 2012, and – in accordance with Decade principles – a consultative meeting with Roma NGO representatives from the Decade participating countries, which took place on 13 December 2012. Both events were organised by the Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities, with the support of the Decade Secretariat.

On 12 December 2012, the Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities organised a whole-day meeting with representatives of international organisations and Roma NGO representatives from the Decade participating countries to discuss the organisation of youth-oriented activities as a priority of the Croatian Decade Presidency.

During 2013, Croatia continued with activities as part of its Decade Presidency, including the organisation of thematic international conferences in line with its Decade Presidency Priorities: “Perspectives on EU Funding for Roma Inclusion” (1 March); “Quality Education for Roma: Sustainability of Educational Policy Developed within the Decade on European level” (22 and 23 April); “Linking the Historical Experience of Roma in Europe with the Promotion of Non-discrimination of Roma” (23 and 24 May); and “Roma Youth Activism and Participation” (18 June).

The Republic of Croatia presided over the Decade of Roma Inclusion from 1 July 2012 to 3 June 2013. It handed over the presidency to Montenegro at the 24th Meeting of the International Steering Committee of the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015, which was held on 19 and 20 June 2013 in Zagreb. The Meeting was attended by the Committee members from governmental institutions and the relevant ministries and those from among the Roma national minority. The report on the Republic of Croatia’s Presidency of the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015 was presented and discussed.

As the presiding country, the Republic of Croatia led the Task Force on the Decade’s future, with special note being also made of the importance of the Kingdom of Norway joining the Decade as an observer during the Croatian presidency.

The legislative system of the Republic of Croatia guarantees the highest level of national minority rights, both those of the first generation (equality before the law and non-discrimination), the second generation (right to minority culture, language, tradition and religion) and the third generation. (participation of national minorities in public life and the decision-making process).

In order to implement the rights regulated by the law as efficiently as possible, the appropriate institutional support has been developed. For example, with a view to implementing the new Anti-Discrimination Act, the role of the Ombudsman has been greatly strengthened. This will undoubtedly contribute to a more efficient fight against all forms of discrimination, including segregation.

It is also important to note that the Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities was set up in 2012 (as the successor of the former Office for National Minorities and the Office for Human Rights) in accordance with the Government Act. Pursuant to the Regulation on the Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities (as published in Croatia’s official journal, *Narodne novine*, no. 42/12), the new Office has been organised by assigning the tasks falling within its remit among four units: the Unit for Combating Trafficking in Persons and International Co-operation Affairs, the Unit for Monitoring the Implementation of the National Programme for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights and the Ombudsman’s Recommendations and for Co-operation with Civil Society Organisations, the Unit for the Preparation and Implementation of National Programmes and Projects for Minorities, and the Unit for the Preparation and Implementation of National Minority Policies and Strategies. The professional staff of the Council for National Minorities on state level has also been enhanced.

At its session of 3 December 2010, the Government of the Republic of Croatia passed the Directive Establishing the National Public Administration School, which provides professional development and training for civil servants, officers in local and regional governments and those employed in legal entities vested with public authority. Pursuant to the Directive, the core business of the School is to train civil servants as well as elected officials and officers in local and regional governments and legal entities vested with public

authority in order to raise, on an ongoing basis, the level and quality of their knowledge, expertise and competencies with a view to shaping a professional, effective and efficient public sector that will provide timely and high-quality public services in conformity with the best generally accepted standards. As of the effective date of the Amendments to the Directive Establishing the National Public Administration School (*Narodne novine*, no. 112/12), the National Public Administration School has assumed the tasks of the Local Democracy Academy.

The Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities (Article 22) stipulates that representation in governmental administrative and judicial bodies should be ensured for persons belonging to national minorities, taking into account their share in the total population at the level where any such governmental administrative or judicial body has been established. The same right is also ensured for persons belonging to national minorities when it comes to local and regional governments. To encourage the implementation of this Article and, thus, ensure the representation of persons belonging to national minorities, special measures have been taken, including a continuous monitoring of the number of persons belonging to national minorities in individual bodies. In order to define the realistic possibilities for increasing the number of persons belonging to national minorities in governmental administrative bodies over the period from 2011 to 2014 and to ensure that their representation reached 5.5 percent of the total number of persons employed in the aforementioned bodies by the end of 2011, the Government adopted the Civil Service Admission Plan for Persons Belonging to National Minorities for the period from 2011 to 2014 (*Narodne novine*, no. 65/11).

In comparison to the previous reporting period, certain novelties have also emerged when it comes to the participation of national minorities in local and regional governments.

The Constitutional Act sets forth a criterion whereby persons belonging to national minorities may elect their councils in those governmental units in which they account for a minimum of 1.5 percent of the total population, in local governmental units inhabited by more than 200 persons belonging to a particular national minority, and in regional governmental units inhabited by more than 500 persons belonging to a national minority. In cases where none of the aforementioned conditions for the election of a national minority council are met, but no less than 100 persons belonging to a national minority live in the territory of the relevant unit, they can elect a national minority representative.

The Government of the Republic of Croatia made the Decisions to Call Elections for Members of National Minority Councils and National Minority Representatives in Local and Regional Self Government Units (*Narodne novine*, no. 56/11 and 58/11 – Amendments to Decisions) on 19 May 2011, and the elections were held on 10 July 2011. These were the third elections since the adoption of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities, which introduced the institution of national minority councils. A detailed analysis of their results is presented in the section related to Article 15 of the Framework Convention.

21 July 2011 was the effective date of the Register of National Minority Councils and Their Co-ordinating Bodies and National Minority Representatives Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 80/11), which regulates the procedure for entry in the Register of National Minority Councils and Their Co-ordinating Bodies and Representatives, changes in the registered data and the conditions for deletion from the Register, as well as the work and financing of national minority council coordinating bodies established for the territory of the Republic of Croatia, whereas the Amendments to the Register of National Minority Councils and Their Co-ordinating Bodies and National Minority Representatives Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 34/12) entered into force on 29 March 2012.).

Improvements to legislation

Constitution of the Republic of Croatia

In the past four-year period, further improvements have been made in the legislative framework regulating national minority rights. Following the 2010 Amendments to the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia (*Narodne novine*, no. 76/1), the Preamble of the Constitution – in addition to the previously enumerated national minorities (Austrians, Czechs, Germans, Hungarians, Italians, Jews, Ruthenians, Serbs, Slovaks and Ukrainians) – now lists the following national minorities as well: Bosniaks, Slovenes, Montenegrins, Macedonians, Russians, Bulgarians, Poles, Roma, Romanians, Turks, Vlachs and Albanians.

Pursuant to Recommendation 38 of the Advisory Committee, by mentioning all 22 minorities living in the Republic of Croatia in the Constitution's Preamble, the scope of application of the Framework Convention has been extended, as well as that of other regulations governing the specific rights of persons belonging to national minorities. Thus, persons belonging to all national minorities living in the territory of the Republic of Croatia are guaranteed equality with citizens of Croatian nationality and the exercise of their ethnic rights in accordance with the democratic standards of the UN and countries of the free world.

Furthermore, amendments to Article 92 of the Constitution have set up a framework for further legal elaboration the Ombudsman's authority. Specifically, the Ombudsman's authority in his/her work on individual cases of citizens' rights protection is, by virtue of law, limited to central and local governments and entities vested with public authority. However, in relation to judicial authorities and other legal persons, the Ombudsman may act only through administrative bodies. The accepted amendment has removed all doubt about the possibility of the Ombudsman's authority being defined by law.

Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities

During the period under review, the Croatian Parliament – at its session of 16 June 2010 – adopted the Amendments to the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities. As a result, Article 19 of the Constitutional Act – which sets forth guarantees for persons belonging to national minorities with regard to their right to representation in the Croatian Parliament – introduced two models of positive discrimination for national minorities, which differed depending on whether a particular national minority accounted for more or less than 1.5 percent of the total population of the Republic of Croatia.

According to this provision, a minimum of three seats in the Croatian Parliament had to be reserved for representatives of those national minorities which, on the effective date of the amendments to the Constitutional Act, accounted for more than 1.5 percent of the total population of the Republic of Croatia and which achieved their right to representation on the basis of universal suffrage, in compliance with the legislation governing the election of deputies to the Croatian Parliament.

The provision effective prior to the amendments stipulated that a minimum of one and a maximum of three seats in the Croatian Parliament had to be reserved for representatives of those national minorities which accounted for more than 1.5 percent of the total population of the Republic of Croatia.

Also, before the aforementioned amendments to the Constitutional Act, it was stipulated that persons belonging to those national minorities which accounted for less than 1.5 percent of the total population of the Republic of Croatia were entitled to elect at least four deputies belonging to such national minorities. The new provision stipulated that persons belonging to national minorities accounting for less than 1.5 percent of the total population of the Republic of Croatia were, in addition to their right to exercise universal suffrage, entitled

to the special right to vote enabling them to elect five deputies belonging to such national minorities within their special constituencies.

Persons belonging to national minorities who, on the effective date of the amendments to the Constitutional Act, accounted for more than 1.5 percent of the population of the Republic of Croatia were able to achieve their right to be represented in the Croatian Parliament by at least three, and possibly even more, deputies on the basis of their universal suffrage. This amendment to the Act allowed the Serbian national minority to have more than three deputies in Croatian Parliament and to exercise that right by way of universal suffrage.

Since it was possible that persons belonging to national minorities accounting for less than 1.5 percent of the total population of the Republic of Croatia could not achieve their right to appropriate representation in the Croatian Parliament (solely) by way of universal suffrage, the new provision of Article 19(3) also gave them the a special right to vote, in conformity with Article 15(3) of the Constitution of Republic of Croatia.

Amendments were also made to the provision of Article 20(7) with regard to the criteria for determining the level of representation of persons belonging to national minorities in the representative bodies of local and regional self-government units and national minority councils. Specifically, it was adjusted to the provision of Article 24(6) of the Constitutional Act, which precisely defines the criteria for determining the number of persons belonging to national minorities for the purposes of elections for members of national minority councils. The provision was made consistent by taking the population census, adjusted (increased or decreased) by the number of voters who were entered in or deleted from the electoral roll in the period from the population census to the latest confirmed electoral roll, as the relevant criterion for determining the number of persons belonging to national minorities. This provision on determining the number of persons belonging to national minorities was applied at regular local elections held in May 2001.

Furthermore, the provisions of Articles 22(2) and 22(3) of the Constitutional Act were amended by stipulating that the representation of persons belonging to national minorities in government administration and judicial bodies, as well as their representation in the administrative bodies of local governmental units, should be ensured in accordance with capabilities and in compliance with the provisions of special legislation and other employment policy papers of such bodies.

Article 33 of the Constitutional Act was amended by the insertion of new paragraphs (5) and (6). Paragraph (5) stipulates that national minority council coordinating bodies throughout the territory of the Republic of Croatia shall be non-profit legal persons and that they shall acquire such status by their entry in the register maintained by the ministry in charge of general administrative affairs. Before that, co-ordinating bodies could not acquire legal personality and were, consequently, unable to engage in legal transactions. The new paragraph (6) of Article 33 of the Constitutional Act provided that the Serbian National Council would act as the co-ordinating body of Serbian minority councils throughout the territory of the Republic of Croatia.

The new paragraph (8) of Article 33 of the Constitutional Act stipulated that the Joint Council of Municipalities would act, as a legal person, in areas constituting parts of Vukovar-Srijem and Osijek-Baranja Counties, in accordance with the Basic Agreement on the Region of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Srijem of 12 November 1995 (Erdut Agreement) and the Letter of Intent of the Croatian Government of 13 January 1997.

While the above-described models of positive discrimination constituted an attempt to give concrete form to positive measures proclaimed as a matter of principle in Article 3(1) of the Constitutional Act and to the basic provision of Article 4(6) thereof, according to which the Constitutional Act or special legislation may stipulate the exercise of specific rights and freedoms depending on the share of persons belonging to national minorities in the population

of the Republic of Croatia, the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Croatia, by its decision of 29 July 2011, rescinded the amendments to the Constitutional Act which addressed the election of deputies to the Croatian Parliament and the voting rights of persons belonging to national minorities. The Court also rescinded the provision stipulating that, where so specified by international treaties, the co-ordination function with regard to national minorities could also be performed by the umbrella organisations of such minorities, as well as the provision stipulating that Serbian National Council would act as the co-ordinating body of Serbian minority councils throughout the territory of the Republic of Croatia and would have legal personality. In addition, the Court rescinded the corresponding provisions of the Amendments to the Croatian Parliamentary Elections Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 145/10). The amendment enabling co-ordinating bodies to acquire legal personality has remained in force.

Register of National Minority Councils, Their Co-ordinating Bodies and National Minority Representatives Act

National minority councils are required to acquire legal personality by the Constitutional Act, and national minority council co-ordinating bodies established for the territory of the Republic of Croatia are required to do so by the Amendments to the Constitutional Act, which entered into force on 7 July 2010.

There was no law specifying procedures and methods for the registration of these organisational mechanisms of national minorities in local and regional self-government units. Instead, there was a by-law governing the content of the register, its maintenance and application forms for entry in the register of national minority councils.

To ensure the consistency and completeness of records-keeping for the organisational mechanisms stipulated for the activities of national minorities, legal arrangements were needed to stipulate the conditions and method for their registration. These were stipulated by the Register of National Minority Councils and Their Co-ordinating Bodies and National Minority Representatives Act, adopted by the Croatian Parliament at its session of 1 July 2011 (*Narodne novine*, no. 80/11). This Act governs the method of entry in the Register of National Minority Councils, Their Co-ordinating Bodies and National Minority Representatives, changes to these data and the conditions for deletion from the Register, as well as the work and financing of co-ordinating bodies of national minority councils established for the territory of the Republic of Croatia. On 31 August 2001, in keeping with the provision of Article 20 of the Register of National Minority Councils and Their Co-ordinating Bodies and National Minority Representatives Act, the minister of public administration passed the Ordinance on the Form, Content and Methods for Maintaining of the Register of National Minority Councils, Their Co-ordinating Bodies and National Minority Representatives and the Forms for Registration and Issuance of Documents (*Narodne novine*, no. 106/11).

The Register of National Minority Councils, Their Co-ordinating Bodies and National Minority Representatives was put into place and the registration of entities therein and the issuance of decisions based on registration applications commenced in November 2011. The Amendments to the Register of National Minority Councils and Their Co-ordinating Bodies and National Minority Representatives Act was adopted at in mid-June 2012. Specifically, the application of the Councils Register Act had, up to that time, highlighted certain difficulties, complexities, inconsistencies and slowness in the implementation of the procedure stipulated for the registration of entities in the Register, as a result of which amendments to the Act were drafted to remedy the identified problems.

Pursuant to the aforementioned Act, official state records of national minority councils, national minority representatives and national minority council co-ordinating bodies

elected or established under the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities and other special legislation governing minority rights and freedoms in the participation of persons belonging to national minorities in public life and the management of local affairs are kept in the form of a public Register.

Until the end of 2013, a total of 243 national minority councils, 145 national minority representatives and 8 co-ordinating bodies of national minority councils and representatives were entered in said Register and issued with decisions on their registration.

Local Elections Act

The new Local Elections Act, adopted in December 2012, expressly regulates the representation of persons belonging to national minorities in the representative and executive bodies of local and regional governmental units, notwithstanding their charters and in compliance with the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities. In their charters, local and regional self-government units no longer have to provide for the right to representation in order for it to be achieved, nor must they specify the number of local minority members in their representative bodies in accordance with the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities, or to adjust their charters prior to each local election cycle. The Local Elections Act sets the criteria for determining the number of representative body members coming from each national minority and provides that the number of representative body members coming from among persons belonging to a national minority will be determined by multiplying the share of such a national minority in the total population of the concerned unit by the number of its representative body members, and by rounding the obtained result to a whole number, without decimals.

In this way, minority representation has been ensured in those units where national minorities have the legally required share in the population. In their charters, local and regional self-government units may, irrespective of minority shares in their population, provide for even greater rights than required by the law, but the representation of a particular minority no longer depends on the charter of a local or regional unit because it enjoys that right pursuant to the Constitutional Act and in line with its share in the population. In their charters, local and regional self-government units may still guarantee greater rights than those stemming from law, including representation in their representative and executive bodies.

The Act contains more detailed provisions on how to determine national minority representation following elections held for representative bodies. As a result, by-elections for national minority representatives are now more of an exception in cases where none of the legally stipulated methods has resulted in the appropriate representation of a national minority in the representative body.

The new Local Elections Act has also introduced changes regarding the issues of substituting representative body members coming from among national minorities and determining national minority representation in executive bodies.

Similarly, when it comes to ensuring national minority representation in executive bodies, the Act provides that, in units where national minorities are entitled to have deputy mayors of towns and municipalities and deputy county prefects, these officials are elected by direct vote, at the same time, in the same manner and under the same procedure as mayors of towns and municipalities and county prefects. The deputies elected in this way are deemed national minority representatives and there is no need for holding any by-elections.

As a result of the arrangements provided by the new Act to ensure the representation of national minority members in local and regional representative and executive bodies, the number of by-elections will significantly drop, which will, in turn, lead to major cuts in costs

incurred by local and regional units in the organisation of by-elections, because experience has shown that one of the major problems was in fact the matter of their financing.

Criminal Code

When it comes to anti-discrimination efforts, it is important to note that the new Criminal Code, as adopted by the Croatian Parliament on 21 October 2011 (*Narodne novine*, no. 125/11), introduces new grounds for discrimination with regard to criminal offences against equality, aligning them with the relevant provisions of the Constitution and the Anti-discrimination Act. In its General Section, the Criminal Code defines a hate crime as any criminal offence committed on the basis of someone's race, skin colour, religion, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation or gender identity. Thus, the definition of hate crime has been aligned with Council Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA of 28 November 2008 on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law. It is further stipulated that a hate crime will be taken as an aggravating circumstance of any criminal offence and will, accordingly, entail more stringent sanctions. In its Special Section, the Criminal Code includes the criminal offence of incitement to violence and hatred.

An important step for substantive criminal law was made in 2009, when a working group was established to draft a new Criminal Code. In the preparation of the new Criminal Act and, in particular, while addressing the issues of combating racism and discrimination, special attention was accorded to alignment with the provisions of Article 1 of the Anti-discrimination Act, Council of Europe Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA of 28 November 2008 on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law, ECRI Recommendation No. 7 to the extent that it pertains to criminal law, and Article 4 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

In its General Section, the Criminal Code (Article 87(21)) defines a hate crime as any criminal offence committed on the basis of someone's race, skin colour, religion, national or ethnic origin, disability, sex, sexual orientation or gender identity. Furthermore, it stipulates that any such act will be taken as an aggravating circumstance unless the Code expressly provides for a more stringent sanction. By such a definition, the Criminal Code has been aligned with the requirements of the Council of Europe Framework Decision on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law.

In its Special Section, the Criminal Code provides that committing a criminal offence motivated by hate constitutes an aggravating circumstance for some crimes and entails more stringent sanctions. This, for example applies to the criminal offences of inflicting minor physical injuries, serious physical injuries, particularly serious physical injuries and fatal physical injuries, female genital mutilation, coercion, threat, serious offences against sexual freedom, damaging the property of others and causing riots. In other cases, the fact that a crime is hate-motivated should be taken as an aggravating circumstance.

Another novelty in the Special Section is the criminal offence of Public Incitement to Violence and Hatred (Article 325), which covers the crimes included in Article 174 of the Criminal Code of 1997, but is fully aligned with the Council of Europe Framework Decision on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law. The criminal offence of public incitement to violence and hatred incriminates any act of publicly inciting to violence and hatred directed against certain groups of persons. Such acts are also punishable when committed via IT systems. The sanctions have been harmonized with the requirements of the Framework Decision as well. They are applicable to anyone who organises or leads a group of three or more persons with a view to committing this criminal offence and anyone who participates in such association. Furthermore, the punishable acts

include publicly condoning, denying or trivialising certain crimes (genocide, aggression, crimes against humanity or war crimes) in a manner likely to incite violence and hatred against certain groups, as well as any attempt to commit this criminal offence.

In the new Criminal Code, the crimes referred to in Articles 174 (1) and 174(2) of the Criminal Code of 1997 are covered by the criminal offence of Infringement of Equality under Article 125, which provides for new discriminatory grounds with a view to harmonisation with the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia and the Anti-discrimination Act.

The new Criminal Code was prepared in a transparent manner, though the ongoing process of consultations with the public and civil society. For the purposes of its preparation, a special e-mail address was set up and the broader public was invited to follow the legislating efforts and present their comments, proposals, criticisms and opinions, which were then seriously considered by the Working Group. As the new Criminal Code was being drafted, a series of meetings and round tables were also held to keep the public informed about the proposed novelties. In April 2011, the Human Rights Centre hosted a Round Table to discuss, *inter alia*, crimes against humanity and human dignity, crimes against human rights, and infringements of equality and national minority rights.

Hate Crimes Protocol

On 2 April 2011, the Government of the Republic of Croatia adopted the Hate Crimes Protocol. The adoption of the Protocol relies on the commitments undertaken by the Republic of Croatia when it signed the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and other international instruments, as well as the obligation of the Republic of Croatia stemming from its Negotiation Position on Chapter 23 – “Judiciary and Fundamental Rights” - Sub-benchmark 9.2.1 (with regard to the establishment of a track record for discrimination and hate crime cases and in keeping with the objectives and measures from the National Programme for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights from 2008 to 2011 concerning the obligation to ensure a system to monitor and keep statistical indicators on discrimination and hate crimes).

Pursuant to the Protocol, the Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities serves as a central body in charge of collecting and publishing data about hate crimes and co-operation with civil society and international organisations.

The Protocol provides that data should be collected every six months from the key institutions (the Ministry of the Interior, the Public Prosecutor’s Office and the Ministry of Justice). Accordingly, the Ministry of Justice has established a track record for legal proceedings related to hate crimes.

In November 2011, a template was developed to track the statistics of legal proceedings related to hate crimes and, in compliance with the Hate Crimes Protocol adopted by the Government of the Republic of Croatia at its session of 2 April 2011, the Ministry of Justice – in keeping with its obligations taken under the Protocol – developed a standard Template for Tracking the Statistics of Hate Crimes as well as a standard Template for Tracking the Statistics of Misdemeanours Specifically Qualified as Hate-Motivated.

Ombudsman Act

In the period under review, significant improvements have been made in strengthening the institution of the Ombudsman, as well as other specialised ombudsman institutions. The 2010 Amendments to the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia and the legislative framework adopted in 2012 (*Narodne novine*, no. 76/12) have created formal prerequisites for strengthening the institution of the Ombudsman in order to promote and protect human rights

and safeguard citizens from illegal and irregular actions of governmental administrative bodies at the central, local and regional levels, legal entities vested with public authority and courts, in particular, with regard to respect for the reasonable time principle.

Under the constitutional amendments from June 2010 (Article 92), the Ombudsman's authority has, in addition to the already existing protection, been extended to the promotion of human rights and freedoms (paragraph 1) and the possibility has been created to vest the Ombudsman, by virtue of law, with certain powers in relation to legal and natural persons in order to protect the fundamental constitutional rights (paragraph 4). The New Ombudsman Act has aligned the Ombudsman's work and mandate with the 2010 Amendments to the Constitution, and strengthened co-ordination between the Ombudsman and specialised ombudsmen (for gender equality, for persons with disabilities and for children). New legal provisions provide for the strengthening of the institution through a better appointment procedure, increased powers, including those vis-à-vis the courts, procedural arrangements governing the Ombudsman's work, and the merger of the Human Rights Centre, which has, since its establishment in 2005 to date, achieved remarkable results in the active promotion of human rights. As a result of these new legal arrangements, the Ombudsman now issues recommendations to governmental administrative bodies with a view to enhancing the human rights protection system and follows up on these recommendations as well as the impact of his/her reports on human rights protection standards. Also, pursuant to the National Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment Preventive Mechanism Act (enacted by the Croatian Parliament on 28 January 2011), the Ombudsman performs the tasks of the National Preventive Mechanism.

The Ombudsman's Office has been vested with new authority and provided with additional human resources *in compliance with Recommendation no. 77 of the Advisory Committee*. However, in her Report for 2013, the Ombudsman states that the financial resources allocated from the Central Budget to the Ombudsman's Office are not sufficient for the regular execution of the entrusted tasks and authority, especially in the context of an increasing number of complaints received.

Anti-discrimination Act

In the period under review, amendments were adopted to the Anti-discrimination Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 112/12). As a result of the efforts to monitor the application of the Act in 2009, it was established beyond doubt that, by meeting the basic objectives of its adoption, a significant progress had been made towards protection against all forms of discrimination, reduction of discrimination risks and raising the level of awareness of the unacceptability of discriminatory behaviour. While the Act complies with the high civilisational and social standards of our time, further efforts are needed to ensure the appropriate implementation of the EU *acquis* in this area. Specifically, at the time it was being prepared for its adoption by the Croatian Parliament in 2008, the European Commission had no comments on the Act.

However, in its Common Position (Revision of CONF-HR 13/08) of 18 December 2009, related to the fulfilment of commitments under Chapter 19 (Social Policy and Employment – Anti-discrimination), the European Union presented its comments whereby it acknowledged and welcomed the adoption of single anti-discrimination act in July 2008 and, in the same section of its Common Position, invited the Republic of Croatia to complete legal alignment in this field, in particular with respect to the exceptions to the principle of non-discrimination, taking note of the commitment given by Croatia to fulfil all the requirements of the *acquis* in this area, notably as regards the exceptions to the principle of non-discrimination, by the end of 2010. This Act is supposed to align the area of the exceptions to the principle of non-discrimination with the relevant EU *acquis*. Specifically, the Act also

lists the exceptions to non-discrimination, which means that, in certain cases, according more favourable treatment does not constitute discrimination.

Free Legal Aid Act

The Free Legal Aid Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 62/08) was adopted to ensure the provision of legal assistance to economically and socially vulnerable categories of citizens, and the Amendments to the Free Legal Aid (*Narodne novine*, no. 81/11) was adopted pursuant to the Ruling of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Croatia No. U-I-722/2009 of 6 April 2011 (*Narodne novine*, no. 44/11). However, the application of this Act in practice underscored the need for further improvements to the framework for providing free legal aid to economically and socially vulnerable categories of citizens. This initiative also ensued from recommendations made by international experts, such as those received under the Twinning Light Project “Improvement of Free Legal Aid System” (HR/2009/IB/JH/03TL). During February 2013, a new Free Legal Aid Act was drafted because the proposed amendments affected two thirds of the Act, which required the adoption of a new act rather than amending the existing one. Public consultations were held in June 2013, and the Free Legal Aid Act was adopted in November 2013 (*Narodne novine*, no. 143/13) and entered into force on 1 January 2014.

The new Act has expanded the scope of beneficiaries, relaxed the means-based criteria and created an improved financing system aligned with the requirements of primary legal aid providers.

The most important change in the new Act pertains to the procedure for approval of primary free legal aid, which has been streamlined in that beneficiaries now directly address legal aid providers (authorised organisations, legal clinics or state administrative offices), and primary legal providers make their own checks as to whether applicants meet the legally required eligibility criteria for primary legal aid. As already mentioned, the means-based criteria for approval of primary legal aid have been relaxed so that it may be provided in any legal matter, which was not the case thus far. This enables a broad scope for beneficiaries to be informed of their basic rights and how to obtain their protection without instigating any proceedings before judicial and other government authorities. Primary legal aid may take the form of provision of general legal information, provision of legal advice, preparation of submissions for public authorities, as well as representation in proceedings before public authorities and legal assistance in out-of-court amicable settlement of disputes.

Currently, 35 organisations from all over Croatia are registered with the Ministry of Justice as entities authorised to provide primary legal aid, and some of them are specialised in providing legal assistance to minority groups. The funds for free legal aid are allocated to its providers (authorised organisations and legal clinics) on the basis of their approved projects. Documents are currently being prepared for an invitation for applications to be announced in 2014 for the allocation of funds for projects proposed by authorised organisations and legal clinics. In the evaluation of projects, special attention will be accorded to those focused on providing legal aid to vulnerable social groups, such as minorities.

With regard to secondary legal aid, which is provided by attorneys-at-law, the stipulated means-related eligibility criteria have been simplified and relaxed compared to the previous legal provisions. Special forms of secondary legal aid also include exemption from legal costs and court fees. The approval of these forms of legal assistance is subject to less stringent criteria than those required for approving secondary legal aid provided by attorneys-at-law, with exemption from court fees being possible in all legal proceedings.

Judicial reform

On 20 May 2010, having analysed the implementation of measures set forth in the Action Plan for the implementation of strategic guidelines under the Judicial Reform Strategy of 2008, the Government of the Republic of Croatia adopted a revised Action Plan for the Judicial Reform Strategy. Since approximately 90 percent of measures from the previous plan had been accomplished, the remaining measures were defined in more detail, modified and supplemented. To facilitate follow-up on implementation of the Action Plan, specific time-tables were set and implementing agencies were defined, with the priority accorded to the completion of the negotiation process for Croatia's accession to the European Union. The Action Plan adopted in May 2010 continued to apply in 2011, as well, ensuring continuity in the implementation of the initiated reforms.

The Judiciary Development Strategy for the period from 2013 to 2018 was adopted on 14 December 2012 (*Narodne novine*, no. 144/12). At the same time, it should be noted that the Action Plan for the implementation of strategic guidelines under the Judiciary Development Strategy for the period 2013-2014 was adopted in June 2013, in particular, with a view to intensifying the activities aimed at further reduction in the total backlog of pending cases, decreasing the duration of court proceedings and, in general, increasing efficiency in the work of judicial bodies.

Courts Act

To improve the quality, capacity and efficiency of the judiciary and to resolve, without delay, all pending cases, a new Courts Act was adopted in February 2013 (*Narodne novine*, no. 28/13). It stipulates that court presidents are required to ensure the efficiency of their courts in handling cases, especially when trials last longer than three years. Court presidents are required to notify superior courts and the Ministry of Justice of all issues relevant to the work of their courts. Also, on an annual basis, but not later than 31 March of the current year for the preceding year, they are required to submit a report on completed court administrative tasks and measures and activities undertaken to improve the work and efficiency of their courts in handling cases directly to their superior courts, the State Judicial Council and the Ministry of Justice. Placing the task of finding whether motions for the protection of the right to trial within a reasonable time are founded was yet another effort to highlight the accountability of court presidents for the expeditiousness of the courts they lead.

The tasks performed by court presidents and court administration have been expanded to cover those related to the examination of whether the motions of parties for the protection of their right to a trial within a reasonable time are founded and those concerned with the analysis of management reports on the work of courts and judges. To strengthen the accountability of court presidents, the Act stipulates their obligation to furnish the presidents of their immediately superior courts and the Ministry of Justice with the final version of their annual schedules of tasks, to supervise the due and timely performance of tasks by their courts in compliance with their Standing Orders and to prepare, at least once each month, a special report on such supervision, its outcomes and any measures taken.

Furthermore, the new Courts Act provides for the possibility of assigning cases to other courts with subject-matter and territorial jurisdiction in order to balance the caseload of courts and introduce changes in their subject-matter and territorial jurisdiction, with the authority to propose any such assignment being also given to the minister of justice.

Another novelty is the introduction of the annual report to be submitted by the chief justice of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Croatia to the Croatian Parliament on the work of the judiciary during the preceding year. In this report, the chief justice of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Croatia may point to the situation and performance of the judiciary,

organisational problems at courts and gaps in legislation, and propose improvements to the functioning of courts.

The Act also lays down the obligation of superior court presidents to order, once each year, the implementation of oversight to ensure the due performance of tasks by judges and courts from within their jurisdiction. Superior court presidents are required to submit their reports on such oversight to the presidents of all supervised courts, the chief justice of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Croatia, the State Judicial Council and the Ministry of Justice.

Yet another key novelty is the introduction of court administration directors as court managers who can be employed at courts with more than 40 judges. Court administration directors have also been introduced as a possible mechanism for decreasing the workload of court presidents by releasing them from administrative tasks and, thus, opening more room to ensure the timeliness in the performance of tasks at courts and efficiency in their work.

The Act pays particular attention to the protection of the constitutionally guaranteed right of parties to a trial within a reasonable time. For the purposes of the provisions of Article 6 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and Article 29 of the Croatian Constitution, it was necessary to upgrade the provisions on the protection of that right. The new Act introduces two procedurally detailed legal remedies for the protection of that right, namely, the motion for the protection of the right to trial within a reasonable time and the motion for appropriate compensation for the violation of the right to trial within a reasonable time.

Article 108(4) of the new Courts Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 28/13) stipulates that, when admitting court officers and employees to courts, consideration must be accorded to the representation of officers and employees belonging to national minorities.

Other legislation

Article 50(1) of the State Judicial Council Act, (*Narodne novine*, no. 116/10, 57/11, 130/11 and 28/13) stipulates that, when appointing judges, due consideration must be accorded to the representation of judges belonging to national minorities, in accordance with the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities.

Just like the previous one, the new State Administrative System Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 150/11 and 12/13) provides that persons belonging to national minorities are entitled to be represented in central state administrative bodies in proportion with their share in the total population of the Republic of Croatia, while their representation in state administrative offices operating in local and regional governmental units should be proportional with their share in the total population of such units. When applying for admission to the civil service, persons belonging to national minorities are entitled to invoke the rights they enjoy pursuant to the provisions of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities. It is also stipulated that the Government of the Republic of Croatia oversees the implementation of measures to achieve the representation of persons belonging to national minorities in state administration bodies.

In the period under review, amendments have also been made to the Primary and Secondary Education Act as well as the regulations passed on the basis thereof, which have been aligned with the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities.

The period under review has also seen amendments to the Special National Concern Areas Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 86/08, 57/11 and 51A/13) and the Reconstruction Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 24/96, 54/96, 87/96, 57/00, 38/09, 45/11, 51A/13), and the adoption of the Directive on Conditions for Establishing and Revoking the Status of a Refugee, Displaced Person or Returnee (*Narodne novine*, no. 133/13) and the Directive on Establishing the Status

of Former Tenancy Right Holders and Conditions and Procedures for their Housing (*Narodne novine*, no. 133/13).

Improvements to the rights of persons belonging to the Roma national minority

National Programme for the Roma and National Roma Inclusion Strategy from 2013 to 2020

The efforts to monitor implementation of the National Programme for the Roma and the Action Plan for the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015 reveal continuous improvements in the situation of persons belonging to the Roma minority in all fields.

Progress is particularly visible in the fields of education, social and political inclusion at the local level through Roma national minority councils and representatives, the legalisation of settlements and improvement to infrastructure in certain parts of Croatia.

In mid-2012, with a view to further improving the socio-economic status of the Roma, the Republic of Croatia embarked on the preparation of its National Roma Inclusion Strategy from 2013 to 2020 (hereinafter: Strategy). The Strategy builds upon the National Programme for the Roma, redefining national priorities, implementation methods and specific measures to be taken in view of the evolving social and political environment, the progress achieved and further challenges in the process of including the Roma and enhancing their socio-economic situation. At the same time, the Strategy is an effort by the Republic of Croatia to align its fundamental policy paper on the integration of persons belonging to the Roma national minority with the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on an EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020. The Strategy also relies on the provisions of international instruments on human and national minority rights, to which the Republic of Croatia is a party. In the process of its preparation, major input came from the experiences of other countries that systematically address Roma issues, especially within the framework of the Decade of Roma Inclusion.

The Strategy has been aligned with the identified needs and challenges related to Roma inclusion at all levels: local, regional, national and EU-wide. It contains goals and targets set as guidelines for making public policies aimed at the socio-economic inclusion of Roma communities up to 2020. The National Roma Inclusion Strategy from 2013 to 2020 will be periodically revised in view of the fact that it needs to be updated with the missing information and baseline values, and in line with the identified requirements and changes related to the position of the Roma national minority in general, as well as that of particularly marginalised groups within the Roma community (women, children, children with special needs, persons with disabilities, elderly persons, marginalised Roma communities, etc.) in the Republic of Croatia.

The implementation of the Strategy will be monitored by means of progress reports on the Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Roma Inclusion Strategy, and quality monitoring will facilitate further progress in the inclusion of the Roma national minority into the Croatian mainstream. Once the implementation of the National Roma Inclusion Strategy from 2013 to 2020 commenced, the National Programme for the Roma, adopted by the Croatian Government on 16 October 2003, and the Action Plan for the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015, adopted by the Croatian Government on 31 March 2005, ceased to apply.

At its session of 4 July 2013, the Government of the Republic of Croatia established the Commission for Monitoring Implementation of the National Roma Inclusion Strategy from 2013 to 2020. Its members were appointed on a parity basis, from among the

representatives of bodies and institutions of the Republic of Croatia and the representatives of the Roma national minority in the Republic of Croatia.

Pursuant to decisions made by the Commission for Monitoring Implementation of the National Programme for the Roma as well as the newly established Commission for Monitoring Implementation of the National Roma Inclusion Strategy from 2013 to 2020, continuous efforts have been made to ensure the funding required to improve the living conditions of the Roma national minority (one-off financial assistance for the continuation of schooling, funds for housing refurbishments, roof repairs, fire and flood damage restoration, treatment of serious diseases, etc.). In the reporting period from 2009 to 2013, a total of HRK 3,492,588.77 has been appropriated under the Office's budget heading¹ and allocated through the Commission for Monitoring Implementation of the National Roma Inclusion Strategy. A detailed breakdown of these allocations is attached to this Report (Appendix 2).

Considerable funds have also been invested in creating the prerequisites for the Roma national minority's cultural autonomy and preserving traditional Roma culture.

In the reporting period from 2009 to 2013, relying on expert analyses made by the Working Group for the Allocation of Funds to Preserve Traditional Roma Culture, the Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities allocated a total of HRK 626,000.00 appropriated under its budget heading for that purpose.

The funds were approved for: procurement of folk attire, procurement of instruments, repairs to attire and instruments, the work of choreographers and scholarly research related to the Roma language and culture.

The allocation of funds to Roma associations and culture clubs in the period from 2009 to 2013 was proposed by a working group composed of experts from the Institute for Ethnology and Folklore Research and the Zagreb Ethnographic Museum, representatives of the Roma national minority and representatives of the Office.

In 2009, relying on expert analyses made by the Working Group for the Allocation of Funds to Preserve Traditional Roma Culture, the Office for National Minorities allocated HRK 181,000 for the procurement of costumes and instruments and the work of choreographers as follows: HRK 7,000.00 to the Association of Ludari Roma of Romanian Origin; HRK 10,000.00 to the Amal Roma Association of Roma Friends; HRK 15,000.00 to the Terne Romane Luluđa Association of Roma from Istria, Pula; HRK 7,000.00 to the Roma Dream Cultural Club; HRK 10,000.00 to the Black Pearls Roma Culture Club; HRK 9,000.00 to the Roma Cultural Centre; HRK 7,000.00 to the Association for Development and Better Life of Roma; HRK 7,000.00 to the Roma Rights Association; HRK 7,000.00 to the Association of Bayash Roma from Sisak-Moslavina County; HRK 20,000.00 to the Darda Roma Culture Club; HRK 10,000.00 to the Kutina Pearls Culture Club; HRK 20,000.00 to the Kali Sara Association for the Promotion of Roma Education in the Republic of Croatia; HRK 10,000.00 to the Luna Roma Friendship Association; HRK 7,000.00 to the Djelem Djelem Roma Culture Club; HRK 15,000.00 to the Humanitarian Organisation – World Organisation of Roma in Croatia; HRK 10,000.00 to the Romani Spirit Culture Club; and HRK 10,000.00 to the Black Arrows Culture Club.

In 2010, in accordance with the foregoing and pursuant to the Decision of the Expert Group for the Allocation of Funds, the Office for National Minorities allocated HRK 175,000.00 as follows: HRK 7,000.00 to the Network of Associations from Sisak-Moslavina County; HRK 5,000.00 to the Association of Bayash Roma from Sisak-Moslavina County; HRK 15,000.00 to the Chaplin Roma Theatre, Rijeka; HRK 5,000.00 to the Association of Croatian Catholic Lovari Roma for Cultural and Performing Activities, Bjelovar; HRK 10,000.00 to the Association for Development and Better Life of Roma, Sisak; HRK

¹ The Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities was established in April 2012, pursuant to the Government's decision to merge the former Office for Human Rights and the Office for National Minorities.

10,000.00 to the Roma Art Centre, Zagreb; HRK 3,000.00 to the Golden Troughs Culture Club, Čakovec; HRK 5,000.00 to Roma Friend – Amal Roma, Zagreb; HRK 5,000.00 to the Romani Heart Culture Club, Zagreb; HRK 15,000.00 to the Luna Roma Friendship Association, Beli Manastir; HRK 10,000.00 to the Bayash Black Pearls, Slavonski Brod; HRK 5,000.00 to the Association of Roma from Baranja, Beli Manastir; HRK 5,000.00 to the Roma Rights Association, Sisak; HRK 15,000.00 to the Europe National Roma Association, R.C. Našice – Romani Way Culture Club, Našice; HRK 15,000.00 to the Roma Cultural Centre, Sisak; HRK 10,000.00 to the Kali Sara Association for the Promotion of Roma Education in the Republic of Croatia; HRK 5,000.00 to the Black Pearls Roma Culture Club, Sisak; HRK 15,000.00 to the Darda Roma Culture Club; and HRK 15,000.00 to the Humanitarian Organisation – World Organisation of Roma in Croatia, Zagreb.

In 2011, the Expert Working Group for the Allocation of Funds passed the Decision to Allocate Funds to Finance Programmes to Preserve Traditional Roma Culture. The allocation totalled HRK 120,000.00, including: HRK 10,000.00 to the Media Information Centre, Zagreb; HRK 10,000.00 to the Kali Sara Association for the Promotion of Roma Education in the Republic of Croatia, Zagreb; HRK 10,000.00 to the Network of Associations from Sisak-Moslavina County; HRK 5,000.00 to the Association for Development and Better Life of Roma, Sisak; HRK 10,000.00 to the Romani Heart Culture Club, Zagreb; HRK 10,000.00 to the Better Future Roma Women's Association, Zagreb; HRK 10,000.00 to the Roma Cultural Centre, Sisak; HRK 10,000.00 to the Roma Rights Association, Sisak; HRK 15,000.00 to the Romani Spirit Culture Club, Zagreb; and HRK 10,000.00 to the Roma Association of Zagreb and Zagreb County.

In 2013, relying on expert analyses made by the Working Group for the Allocation of Funds to Preserve Traditional Roma Culture, the Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities allocated HRK 150,000 for the procurement of folk attire and instruments, the work of choreographers and scholarly research as follows: HRK 15,000.00 to the Darda Roma Culture Club; HRK 10,000.00 to the Roma Cultural Centre, Sisak; HRK 15,000.00 to the Kali Sara Association for the Promotion of Roma Education in the Republic of Croatia, Zagreb; HRK 5,000.00 to the Roma Rights Association, Sisak; HRK 7,000.00 to the Romani Dream Union of Roma from Croatia, Zagreb; HRK 10,000.00 to the Network of Roma Associations in Croatia, Slavonski Brod; HRK 5,000.00 to the Roma Community of Lika, Gospić; HRK 10,000.00 to the Kutina Pearls Culture Club, Kutina; HRK 10,000.00 to the Black Pearls Culture Club, Sisak; HRK 7,000.00 to the Palanjek Roma Association, Kutina; HRK 15,000.00 to the Roma Ways – Romane drama Association, Zagreb; HRK 12,000.00 to the Association of Roma in Grubišno Polje; HRK 5,000.00 to the Better Life Theatre Association of Young Roma Talents, Slavonski Brod; HRK 5,000.00 to the Association of Bayash Roma, Kutina; HRK 4,000.00 to the Association of Roma from Baranja, Beli Manastir; and HRK 15,000.00 to the Better Future Roma Women's Association, Zagreb.

In the Republic of Croatia, 16 councils and 10 representatives of the Roma national minority have been entered in the Register of National Minority Councils, Their Coordinating Bodies of Councils and National Minority Representatives, thus enabling the involvement of the Roma national minority in the decision-making process at the local level.

In areas inhabited by the Roma, mobile teams composed of representatives from the relevant ministries, state administrative offices, social welfare centres, Roma NGOs and Roma communities are still actively engaged in fact-finding efforts related to specific cases and instruct the inhabitants of these areas on how to solve their status-related issues – especially how to register their residence and acquire Croatian citizenship.

Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Roma Inclusion Strategy in the period from 2013 to 2015

In order to define how to implement the Strategy, the Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Roma Inclusion Strategy has been developed for the period from 2013 to 2015, containing measures aimed at achieving the objectives defined in the Strategy for the aforementioned period. Once the implementation of the new National Roma Inclusion Strategy from 2013 to 2020 commenced, the National Programme for the Roma, adopted by the Croatian Government on 16 October 2003, and the Action Plan for the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015, adopted by the Croatian Government on 31 March 2005, were set aside. To ensure follow-up on the implementation of all operational components of the Strategy, the Government of the Republic of Croatia has set up the Commission for Monitoring Implementation of the National Roma Inclusion Strategy.

The Action Plan covers the following areas: education; employment and inclusion in economic life; health care; social welfare; physical planning, housing and environmental protection; inclusion of the Roma national minority in cultural and social life; status solutions, combating discrimination and assistance in the exercise of rights; improvements in the collection of statistics; and the conformity of programmes with international standards and treaties accepted in the field of human and minority rights. The Action Plan defines the methods of implementing the aims and objectives set forth in the Strategy, implementation time-tables, implementing agencies and participants, baseline values, data sources and collection methods and the funding required for the implementation of the Action Plan over the three-year period.

The preparation of the document was co-ordinated by the Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities, and its development involved participation by all relevant ministries (the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection, the Ministry of Construction and Physical Planning, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Social Policy and Youth, the Ministry of Public Administration, the Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Small Trades, the Ministry of Labour and the Pension System and the Ministry of Culture), the NGO Cooperation Office, the Gender Equality Office, the Office for Combating Drug Abuse, the National Foundation for Civil Society Development, the Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund, the Electronic Media Agency, the Croatian Bureau of Statistics, the Government Asset Management Agency, the Croatian Employment Bureau, the Croatian Public Health Institute, the Council for National Minorities on state level, the Office of the Ombudsman, the Office of the Gender Equality Ombudswoman, the Office of the Children's Ombudswoman, representatives of local and regional governments, representatives of international organisations in the Republic of Croatia, persons belonging to the Roma national minority and independent experts.

In the Central Budget of the Republic of Croatia – specifically, under the budget headings of the responsible bodies – a total of HRK 45,942,870.00 has been allocated to carry out the Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Roma Inclusion Strategy in the period from 2013 to 2015. These funds have been planned within the limits set forth in the Economic and Fiscal Policy Guidelines for this three-year period.

Education

The greatest progress in achieving the rights of the Roma community has been made in the field of access to education, which is primarily reflected in the fact that the number of

school-age Roma children encompassed by the primary education system increased from year to year..

At the end of the 2009/2010 school year, the number of Roma students included in primary education quadrupled from 1,013 to 4,172. Compared to the 2010/2011 school year, when a total of 4,723 Roma children (2,409 M; 2,314 F) attended primary schools, at the beginning of the 2011/2013 school year, their number grew to 4,915 (2,509 M; 2,406 F), and at the beginning of the 2012/2013 school year it reached 5,173 (2,612 M and 2,561 F).

In the course of 2013, further progress was made in the field of education by including Roma children at all levels of the education system, but mostly in primary schools, where their number at the beginning of the 2013/2014 school year reached 5,470 (2,769 M and 2,701 F).

In the field of preschool education, 799 children were included at the beginning of the 2010/2011 school year, of whom 399 (198 M and 201 F) were in preschool and 400 (196 M and 204 F) were in the primary school preparation programme. In 2011, i.e. at the end of the 2010/2011 school year, there were 623 children in preschool education, of whom 276 (136 M and 140 F) were in regular preschools and 310 (156 M and 154 F) were in the primary school preparation programme. At the beginning of the 2011/2012 school year, a total of 623 children were included, of whom 289 (137 M and 152 F) were in preschool and 334 (185 M and 149 F) were in the primary school preparation programme.

In the course of 2009 and 2010, there was a total of 23 Roma teaching assistants in primary schools (12 M; 11 F) and another two financed by local government. No training was organised in 2009 and 2010. In 2009, a total of HRK 1,401,388.53 was spent for the wages of Roma teaching assistants out of the funds planned in the Central Budget, with a total of HRK 1,509,221.52 being spent in 2010.

When it comes to enrolment in secondary schools, the Decision on the Elements and Criteria for the Selection of Candidates for Admission to Secondary Schools, which is adopted by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, contains a special provision regulating the admission of Roma students based on the National Programme for Roma, whereby their enrolment is facilitated by lowering the number of points required for their eligibility to enrol in the secondary education programmes of their choice. While the number of students who continue their education in three-year secondary school programmes is higher than that of those attending four-year programmes, an upward trend can also be seen in the number of students enrolled in the first grades of four-year schools. However, there is also a trend of students discontinuing their secondary education, i.e. leaving secondary schools.

At the end of the 2009/2010 school year, there were 290 students (154 M; 136 F) in secondary schools, at the end of the 2010/2011 school year their number reached 327 (158 M; 169 F), while 425 students (214 M; 211 F) were included in secondary education at the beginning of 2011/2012. In 2009/2010, education was discontinued by 37 students (21 M; 16 F) out of 290 (154 M; 136 F), and there were 14 grade repeaters(10 M; 4 F). In 2010/2011, 57 drop-outs were recorded (27 M; 30 F) out of 327 (158 M; 169 F), and there were 20 grade repeaters (9 M; 11 F).

Considering the number of Roma pupils who complete their primary education, that is, the number of Roma eight-graders at the end of a school year in relation to the number of students admitted to secondary schools in that same year, it can be concluded that, without increasing the successful completion of primary education, it is impossible to expect any significant increase in the number of Roma students in secondary schools.

The Ministry of Science, Education and Sports provides scholarships for all regular secondary school students belonging to the Roma national minority. Specifically, each student receives HRK 5,000.00 per year, i.e. HRK 500.00 per month during the school year. As a prerequisite for receiving such scholarships, students are supposed to declare their nationality

as Roma. In 2010, a total of HRK 1,343,000.00 was allocated from the Central Budget for scholarships, with HRK 1,598,820.00 spent in the 2011 budget year. Given a considerably lower number of Roma students enrolling in four-year secondary schools, which is normally a precondition to for the continuation of education at institutions of higher learning, the City of Zagreb organised free preparations for entrance exams for all candidates who applied for the 2009/2010 school year. For the 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 school years, secondary school students were supposed to take the National School Leaving Examination as a prerequisite for their further education at institutions of higher learning. An increasing number of students belonging to the Roma national minority is being included in the secondary education system. At the beginning of the 2012/2013 school year, there was a total of 480 students (286 M and 194 F) attending secondary schools, among whom there is a considerably higher number of those continuing their education under three-year secondary school programmes (a total of 157 students enrolled in the 2012/2013 school year) compared to those in four-year programmes (a total of 23 students enrolled).

By ensuring scholarships and accommodation in student dormitories, the prerequisites have been created to increase the number of Roma students of both genders who successfully complete secondary education. Measures to increase literacy among adults belonging to the Roma national minority were implemented under two projects: “Decade of Literacy in Croatia – for Croatian Literacy 2003-2012” and “For Croatian Literacy: a Road to the Desired Future”.

Scholarships are provided not only for secondary school students belonging to the Roma national minority, but also for those attending institutions of higher education. At its 13th session held on 11 February 2011, the Commission for Monitoring the National Programme for the Roma concluded that scholarship constituted social support for families to ensure the continuation of education of Roma minority pupils/students and that, as such, they could not be counted as family income for the purposes of determining eligibility for social welfare benefits.

When it comes to higher education, 28 students received scholarships in the 2010/2011 academic year. The Ministry of Science, Education and Sports provides scholarships for all Roma university students who request it, provided that they have declared their nationality as Roma. Scholarships were received by 10 university students (7 F; 3 M) in the 2010/2011 academic year, and by 27 students (10 M; 17 F) in the 2011/2012 academic year. This scholarship is HRK 1,000.00 per month over a period of ten months, i.e. 10,000.00 per year.

The number of pupils included in extended day programmes has significantly increased and stands at 548 (293 M; 255 F). The upward trend has also been maintained when it comes to the number of students belonging to the Roma national minority included in the secondary education system. At the beginning of the 2013/2014 school year, there was a total of 588 students (327 M and 261 F) in secondary schools. In the higher education system, 23 students (7 M and 16 F) were registered in the 2012/2013 academic year. For regular students, the Ministry secured a total of HRK 350,000.00. Since the annual scholarship for Roma students is HRK 10,000.00, HRK 230,000.00 was spent for scholarships.

In the 2013/2014 school year, a total of 403 students attended three-year secondary school programmes (235 M and 168 F), with four-year programmes being attended by a total of 107 students, (53 M and 54 F). Programmes for semi-skilled workers were attended by 6 students (6 M), programmes for children with developmental difficulties were attended by 67 students (30 M and 37 F), art and design programmes by 2 students (2 F) and music schools by 3 students (3 M).

For the aforementioned academic year, the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports secured scholarships for 542 students (247 M and 295 F). By ensuring scholarships and

accommodation in student dormitories, the prerequisites have been created to increase the number of Roma students of both genders who successfully complete secondary education.

As part of its Indology and Far Eastern Studies Department, the Zagreb University's Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences has introduced two courses: Roma Language and Roma Literature and Culture. The lectures began in November 2012.

Health care

In the field of health care, progress has been observed in vaccination coverage among preschool children living in Roma settlements, and in the implementation of health education for parents with a view to improving health habits. When it comes achieving the right to health insurance, it has been observed that persons belonging to the Roma national minority often cannot qualify for health insurance because they are not entered in the register of citizens as required by the Health Insurance Act and they rarely exercise their right to health insurance under the Aliens Act. In their capacity as regional governments, the counties have – through their public health institutes and in co-operation with sanitary inspection services – taken a series of measures to improve the quality of living and health protection for the Roma population. In the territories of their counties, the county public health institutes have implemented public health actions, epidemiological analyses of quarantinable and other infectious diseases as well as mass non-infectious diseases, efforts to ensure the safety of drinking water, foodstuffs and air, and immunisation, sanitation and health awareness initiatives.

During 2012, systematic efforts were continued to improve the health of Roma infants and children by reaching the same level of vaccination among Roma children as among the rest of the population, by implementing health measures related to the most frequent causes of morbidity and mortality, including health awareness initiatives for parents and preventive and curative health protection measures, as well as other measures aimed at improving the health status and health protection of the Roma population. Visible progress has been made in the implementation of health education initiatives for parents with a view to improving health habits.

Employment

According to the 2011 census, a total of 16,975 persons belonging to the Roma national minority lives in the Republic of Croatia, which is 0.40% of its total population. While the Croatian Employment Bureau does not keep any records of unemployed persons by nationality, it is estimated that a total of 4,499 persons belonging to the Roma national minority were registered as unemployed at the end of 2011, which accounts for 1.42% of total unemployment in Croatia.

The number of unemployed persons belonging to the Roma national minority is estimated according to the places of residence where they are registered in the unemployment records, the certificates they seek to qualify for benefits under the social welfare system, and their knowledge of the Romani language. Creating a database of unemployed persons belonging to the Roma national minority is also difficult because they declare their ethnicity in different ways. Therefore, the Croatian Employment Bureau continuously gathers data required to establish the exact number of unemployed persons belonging to the Roma national minority and updates its databases. In the total number of registered unemployed persons belonging to the Roma national minority (4,499), women account for 2,265 or 50.3%.

During 2010 and 2011, a total of 847 persons belonging to the Roma national minority were covered by employment and education measures under the active employment policy, as laid down in the National Employment Promotion Plan for 2009 and 2010 and the National Employment Promotion Plan for 2011 and 2012. Over a period of 24 months, the Roma National Minority Employment Co-financing initiative encompassed a total of 16 persons, the public works initiative covered 762 persons, while 67 persons were included in education for the unemployed. In 2012, to encourage the employment of Roma men and women, the Croatian Employment Bureau continued to create prerequisites for their employment (especially for young people and women). Preparatory training and self-employment workshops were held to include the Roma in employment preparation programmes, to create a positive climate among employers and encourage them to hire Roma, and to provide systematic self-employment assistance.

Housing

In the field of housing, the implementation of the measure entitled “Preparation of County Programmes for Physical and Environmental Improvement Activities at Locations Inhabited by the Roma” involved participation by 14 counties whose engagement was required under the National Programme, namely: Zagreb County, Sisak-Moslavina County, Karlovac County, Varaždin County, Koprivnica-Križevci County, Bjelovar-Bilogora County, Primorje-Gorski Kotar County, Lika-Senj County, Virovitica-Podravina County, Brod-Posavina County, Osijek-Baranja County, Istria County, Međimurje County and the City of Zagreb. Following the implementation of this measure in the period from 2010 to 2011, 14 county programmes were prepared and adopted.

The preparation of county programmes continued in 2012, along with the provision of further co-financing for local governments to develop physical plans for Roma-inhabited locations. Special attention was accorded to creating the conditions for the integration of sites and buildings into the spatial and functional systems of existing settlements (utility and social infrastructure). All physical plans were developed, thus creating conditions for the legalisation of 14 sites inhabited by the Roma. With the support of an EU grant under PHARE 2005, the complete infrastructure was developed in the largest Roma settlement, namely, Parag in Međimurje County.

Free legal aid for the Roma

The Ministry of Justice allocates funds to Roma NGOs under the Free Legal Act, whereby these organisations are recognised as legitimate providers of primary legal aid (legal advice, information, etc.). However, given the level of education in the Roma community and their generally unregulated status (residence, domicile, citizenship), it may be assumed that the community's needs far exceed allocated funds, which fell significantly in 2010 and 2011 in comparison to 2009. The population's problems merit particular attention by introducing and offering legal aid through permanent mobile teams which have proven very effective in resolving the legal problems of the Roma in domestic and European practice.

Due to a series of reasons which together dictate the tenuous status of the Roma minority, its members – either due to a lack of information or fear of discrimination and distrust in the formal system – find it difficult to turn to state (administrative and judicial) bodies with jurisdiction over the exercise of rights. There is a need for primary legal aid which has a preventive function, contributes to legal security, reduces the number of unnecessary procedures and disburdens the courts and administrative agencies. There is also a need to establish effective co-operation between the providers of free primary legal aid and local Roma representatives. They (CSOs and legal clinics registered to render free primary legal aid) are presently confronted with a series of problems, the most important being the system's sluggishness and elaborate formalities and the narrow leeway. The problem in rendering secondary legal aid is that the directories of attorneys providing free legal aid are not updated, and most attorneys are reluctant to render free legal aid through the system precisely because of the immense bureaucracy and the modest compensation for their work. There is also the problem of a lack of knowledge on the possibility of utilising free legal aid.

Primary legal aid, and especially legal counselling and information for citizens outside of and prior to judicial, administrative and formal legal procedures are of particular importance to the achievement of an effective legal system in which everyone's rights are equally safeguarded. Due to insufficient knowledge of their rights and the mechanisms to exercise them, and of the Croatian language, the Roma population needs support and encouragement to achieve their rights and it is therefore necessary to ensure the conditions that will facilitate and ease this for them.

Through systematic dissemination of information to Croatian citizens on the possibilities offered by the free legal aid system (without amending the existing legislative framework) in compliance with legal arrangements, primarily in the light of the amended Free Legal Aid Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 81/11), and through the application of legal provisions and systematic education of all providers of legal aid, the relevant bodies and the Roma minority, access to the legal aid system will also be ensured for persons belonging to the Roma national minority, so that as a result they will be able to utilise the full potential of the system in compliance with the legally stipulated conditions.

To increase the visibility of free legal aid instruments, the Strategy provides for the implementation of measures and activities aimed at boosting the visibility of free legal aid through different forms of public awareness raising, including brochures which, in simple terms, provide users with instructions on how to exercise the right to legal aid (and which may be translated into the Roma language, if and as required), info-fliers and posters that will be distributed to social welfare centres, the Croatian Pension Insurance Institute, the Croatian Employment Bureau and – via mobile teams – directly in the field.

Recommendations of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

In its Resolution CM/ResCMN(2011)12 on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, adopted on 6 July 2011 at the 1118th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies, the Committee of Ministers invited the Republic of Croatia to take the following measures to improve further the implementation of the Framework Convention.

Issues for immediate action:

- *Complete promptly and without any discrimination all pending cases concerning the repossession and reconstruction of private property and the allocation of housing (the comments on this issue are presented in this Report with reference to Article 16 of the Framework Convention).*

- *Continue the implementation of the "Housing Care Programme for Refugees – Former Tenancy Right Holders who wish to return to the Republic of Croatia" (the comments on this issue are presented in this Report with reference to Article 16 of the Framework Convention).*

- *Prevent, identify, investigate, prosecute and sanction, as necessary, all racially and ethnically-motivated or anti-Semitic acts; take decisive action against racist and anti-Semitic acts perpetrated prior to, during and after football matches in the spirit of the Committee of Ministers' Recommendation Rec(2001)6 on the prevention of racism, xenophobia and racial intolerance in sport (the comments on this issue are presented in this Report with reference to Article 6 of the Framework Convention).*

- *Review the procedures applicable to the implementation of the right to proportional representation of persons belonging to national minorities in public administration, the judiciary, local government and public enterprises, in conformity with Article 22 of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities; observe stricter monitoring and enforce possible sanctions, in order to ensure the full and effective implementation of this provision at all levels (the comments on this issue are presented in this Report with reference to Article 15 of the Framework Convention).*

- *Review legal provisions and administrative practice regulating the election and functioning of the councils of national minorities with a view to eliminating the identified shortcomings, as regards the representativeness of these organisations, their funding and their co-operation with local authorities (the comments on this issue are presented in this Report with reference to Article 15 of the Framework Convention).*

The Republic of Croatia was invited to take appropriate measures with regard to the following recommendations of the Committee of Ministers:

Recommendation 1: *Continue the dialogue with the group of persons identifying themselves as "Muslims" by nationality regarding the possibility of including them in the scope of application of the Framework Convention (the response to this recommendation is presented in this Report with reference to Article 3 of the Framework Convention).*

Recommendation 2: *Review the provisions on the acquisition of dual citizenship in order to avoid unequal treatment based on ethnic origin (the response to this recommendation is presented in this Report with reference to Article 4 of the Framework Convention).*

Recommendation 3: *Undertake further efforts to prevent, to combat and to sanction the inequality and discrimination suffered consistently by the Roma; thoroughly investigate any complaint of alleged discrimination of Roma in access to employment and provision of goods and services (the response to this recommendation is presented in this Report with reference to Article 4 of the Framework Convention).*

Recommendation 4: *Prosecute and sanction adequately perpetrators of discriminatory acts; step up efforts, in particular at local level, to improve the living conditions of Roma and*

promote their inclusion into society (the response to this recommendation is presented in this Report with reference to Article 4 of the Framework Convention).

Recommendation 5: *Review the demand for the introduction of bilingual topographical signs and for the use of minority languages in dealings with the administrative authorities in the municipalities inhabited by a substantial number of persons belonging to national minorities and ensure that the right to use a minority language and script in relations with the administrative authorities is respected in all bodies of local self-government where the law is applicable* (the response to this recommendation is presented in this Report with reference to Articles 10 and 11 of the Framework Convention).

Recommendation 6: *Put an end, without further delay, to the continued segregation of Roma children in schools and redouble efforts to remedy other shortcomings faced by Roma children in the field of education* (the response to this recommendation is presented in this Report under the section on improvements in the rights of persons belonging to the Roma national minority and with reference to Articles 12, 13 and 14 of the Framework Convention).

PART II

OVERVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION

With reference to Article 3 of the Framework Convention

One of the fundamental principles underpinning the overall political and legal system of the Republic of Croatia is that of the equality of all persons before the law. Article 14 of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia provides that all persons in Croatia enjoy certain rights and freedoms, regardless of race, colour, gender, language, religion, political or other conviction, national or social origin, property, birth, education, social status or other traits. Building upon the aforementioned provision, Article 15 guarantees equality to the members of all national minorities (paragraph (1)) as well as the freedom to express their nationality, to use their language and script and to exercise cultural autonomy (paragraph (4)).

The right to declare one's national identity is a private matter of each individual and no one can deprive any person of his/her right to declare him-/herself a national minority.

The criminal offence of violating one's right to express his/her national identity is regulated in Article 126 of the Criminal Code. Specifically, anyone who deprives a person belonging to a national minority of his/her right to express freely his/her national identity or restricts such right is liable to a prison sentence of up to one year. Paragraph (2) of this Article stipulates that the same sanction also applies to anyone who, contrary to legislation governing the use of language and script, deprives a person of his/her right to use his/her language and script or curtails such right.

The freedom to declare one's national identity is also stipulated in Article 7 of the Republic of Croatia Population and Dwellings Census Act, pursuant to which persons belonging to national minorities could freely declare their ethnic background during the 2011 population census.

With regard to the application of the Framework Convention, progress was made as a result of amendments to the preamble of the Constitution, whereby the former list of ten national minorities was extended to include an additional twelve minorities.

Population by citizenship, ethnicity, mother tongue and religion

From the Report of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics

According to the 2011 census, the Republic of Croatia has a total population of 4,284,889, of which persons belonging to national minorities account for 328,738, including 17,513 (0.41%) Albanians, 297 (0.01%) Austrians, 31,479 (0.73%) Bosniaks, 350 (0.01%) Bulgarians, 4,517 (0.11%) Montenegrins, 9,641 (0.22%) Czechs, 14,048 (0.33%) Hungarians, 4,138 (0.10%) Macedonians, 2,965 (0.07%) Germans, 672 (0.02%) Poles, 16,975 (0.40%) Roma, 435 (0.01%) Romanians, 1,279 (0.03%) Russians, 1,936 (0.05%) Ruthenians, 4,753 (0.11%) Slovaks, 10,517 (0.25%) Slovenes, 186,633 (4.36%) Serbs, 17,807 (0.42%) Italians, 367 (0.01%) Turks, 1,878 (0.04%) Ukrainians, 29 (0.00%) Vlachs and 509 (0.01%) Jews.

In the national structure of the population, there are 90.42% Croats, 0.64% persons who declared their regional affiliation and 0.62% of those who refused to declare their national identity.

The share of persons belonging to national minorities is 7.67%, while in the 2001 Census it was 7.47%. The comparison with the preceding census indicates that there is a significant increase of persons who declared their regional identity (primarily Istrians) and a significant increase in the number of Bosniaks and Roma.

In the total population of the Republic of Croatia, the share of persons who declared their regional identity increased from 0.21% to 0.64%, the share of Bosniaks from 0.47% to 0.73% and the share of Roma from 0.21% to 0.40%.

On the other hand, the share of most of the other national minorities in the Republic of Croatia declined slightly. For example, the share of Serbs decreased from 4.54% to 4.36% and that of Slovenes from 0.30% to 0.25%. The breakdown by county shows the highest shares of national minorities in Vukovar-Srijem (19.82%), Istria (16.18%), Sisak-Moslavina (15.85%), Lika-Senj (14.76%), Bjelovar-Bilogora (13.78%), Karlovac (11.93%), Šibenik-Knin (11.69%) and Primorje-Gorski Kotar (10.72%) Counties.

In terms of religion, there are 86.28% Catholics, 4.44% Orthodox and 1.47% Muslims, while the share of other religious affiliations is lower than 1.00%. There are 3.81% non-believers/atheists and 2.17% persons who refused to declare their religion. Compared to the previous census, the share of the Catholics in the total population decreased from 87.97% to 86.28%, while the share of atheists increased from 2.22% to 3.81%, that of agnostics and sceptics from 0.03% to 0.76%, and that of the Muslims from 1.28% to 1.47%.

In terms of their mother tongue, 95.6% reported Croatian as their mother tongue, and 1.23% declared their mother tongue as Serbian. The share of persons who reported another mother tongue was below 1% for each such language.

In the total population of the Republic of Croatia, 99.41% are Croatian citizens, while the share of foreign citizens is 0.53%, specifically 22,527 persons. The latter mostly include citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Slovenia, Germany, Italy, Kosovo and Macedonia.

The table showing the population censuses by ethnicity from 1971 to 2011 is attached to this Report (Appendix 3), as well as that with a breakdown of population by mother tongue (Appendices 4 and 5).

With reference to Article 4 of the Framework Convention*From the Ombudsman's Report on Incidents of Discrimination*

In April 2011, the Ombudsman received the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Croatia to discuss efforts to meet the closing benchmarks for Chapter 23 (Judiciary and Fundamental Rights) as one of those benchmarks urged Croatia to bolster its ombudsman capacity. The discussion focused on progress made in strengthening the ombudsman institution as well as the human and financial capacity of the Office. The task of the EU Delegation was to verify the concrete steps taken to hire new staff for the Discrimination Department since the last Croatia Progress Report up to that date, whether appropriate funding had been secured for the Office to discharge all of its authority (including its new role with a preventive anti-torture mechanism), whether mechanisms were in place to ensure follow-up on the Ombudsman's recommendations, etc.

In 2012, the Ombudsman's Office also implemented a project entitled "Establishing a Comprehensive Anti-discrimination Protection System", funded under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA). Although the implementation of two out of the three components of that project started as early as the end of 2011, most of the total 52 activities planned under the twinning component were implemented during 2012. At the end of 2011, a twinning agreement was signed with Austria's Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Human Rights, pursuant to which experts from the Institute and Austrian governmental institutions, as well as those from the European Network of Anti-discrimination Bodies (EQUINET), implemented activities together with the staff of the Ombudsman's Office. The Ombudsman's partner on this project was the Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities, which was in charge of organising training on the legislative framework for selected target groups (three workshops for judges, one for public prosecutors, and three for representatives of co-ordinating bodies for human rights at the county level and gender equality co-ordinators and ethics commissioners in governmental administrative bodies). The Ombudsman's Office organised workshops designed for its own staff and that of the specialised ombudswomen's offices in order to build their internal capacity for work on discrimination cases. A total of two two-day workshops were held on how to handle complaints about discrimination, two two-day workshops on mediation, and two two-day workshops on class actions and the role of interveners, which also involved participation by representatives from non-governmental organisations and labour unions.

Another essential requirement for setting up a comprehensive and functional system for protection against discrimination is to create the technical prerequisites for collecting different types of data which may be used in monitoring and detecting instances of discrimination. Accordingly, much of the effort made in 2012 focused on developing a database for the Ombudsman's Office to collect data on discrimination complaints received by the Office, as well as on court decisions in discrimination cases. This database will significantly enhance the present method of reporting on discrimination cases received and, in the long run, allow better insight into discrimination-related phenomena and trends.

Finally, as part of this project, efforts were made to define internal procedures for receiving and handling discrimination complaints, to redefine the layout of discrimination complaint forms available on the Ombudsman's website, to develop a strategy for co-operation with non-governmental organisations, and to prepare a manual for the identification of discrimination cases, designed for employees in public law bodies, as well as other promotional materials.

The implementation of the project continued in 2013, as well, and – once it is completed – the system for protection against discrimination will be upgraded by mechanisms

which should encourage citizens to report discrimination. Specifically, another important result accomplished with the support of this project is the establishment of a hotline for citizens who will thus be able to get information on specific discrimination cases they experienced and the possibilities for protection, as well as other information on the anti-discrimination system and how it functions. In order to promote this hotline, informative and educational leaflets were produced under the project to explain what discrimination is and where citizens can seek help and, at the same time, to disseminate information on the phone number. Also, stickers were produced to promote the “anti-discrimination” hotline number.

National Anti-discrimination Plan 2008-2013

In September 2008, the Government of the Republic of Croatia adopted the National Anti-Discrimination Plan 2008-2013 and the Action Plan for Implementation of National Anti-Discrimination Plan 2008-2013 for the 2008-09 period. Chapter 5 of the National Plan is dedicated to national minorities and contains a series of measures that were implemented by the end of 2013. In order to develop a positive policy towards national minorities, ongoing efforts were made to carry out numerous activities, campaigns and public awareness-raising initiatives to increase efficiency in the implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities. Furthermore, and in spite of difficulties, implementation of the Government’s Housing Programme provided a platform to conduct activities aimed at completing the refugee return process.

With regard to efforts to resolve the problems of ethnic Serb refugees, the goal is to clear outstanding housing allocation cases for former tenancy rights holders within and outside the regions under special governmental care, to complete the property repossession process, to conclude legal proceedings related to unauthorised investment projects and the restitution of temporarily occupied properties, and to complete administrative proceedings related to negative decisions on eligibility for reconstruction and housing provision.

As a component of other measures set forth in the Action Plan, financing and co-financing schemes have been instituted for the education of persons belonging to the Roma national minority.

In 2011, the educational activities envisaged by the National Employment Promotion Plan and financed under the budget heading of the Croatian Employment Bureau as part of the National Programme for the Roma covered *35 persons belonging to the Roma national minority (including 11 women)*. The unemployed persons belonging to the Roma national minority were trained for the following jobs: teaching assistant (4), tiler (4), home-and-woodwork painter (4), numerically controlled machine operator (1), sous-chef (6), assistant house-painter (4), carpentry assistant (2), meat-pie and pizza maker (2), house painter (2), mechanical engineering – MIG/MAG welder (1), garment worker (1), motor vehicle driver (1) and mason (3).

In 2012, the educational activities envisaged by the National Employment Promotion Plan and financed under the budget heading of the Croatian Employment Bureau as part of the National Programme for the Roma covered *persons belonging to the Roma national minority (including 1 woman)*. The unemployed persons belonging to the Roma national minority were trained for the following jobs: automotive mechanic (1), assistant sheet-metal worker (1), masonry assistant (16), carpentry assistant (2) and garment worker (1).

By co-financing the employment of persons belonging to the Roma national minority over a period of 24 months, incentives are provided to increase their employability, especially for young people and other persons who have acquired qualifications or previous work experience. In 2011, funds were secured to co-finance the employment of *12 persons belonging to the Roma national minority (including 2 women)*. In 2012, co-financing was

provided for the employment of 10 persons belonging to the Roma national minority (including 4 women).

From the Report of the Ministry of Justice

Relying on data collected by the courts, the Ministry of Justice maintains records of legal proceedings (misdemeanour, civil and criminal) related to the Anti-discrimination Act. As a result, it has set up the appropriate database.

With regard to criminal cases related to violations of the Anti-discrimination Act, a total of seven new cases were filed in 2010, with seven outstanding cases remaining from the preceding period. In 2010, one newly filed case pertained to discrimination on grounds of national background, and two were related to discrimination based on ethnicity. These resulted in two convictions (one for discrimination based on of ethnicity). Final judgements were pronounced in a total of two cases.

With regard to civil cases related to violations of the Anti-discrimination Act, a total of 36 cases were filed in 2010, with three outstanding cases remaining from the preceding period.. In 2010, four newly filed cases concerned discrimination on the grounds of national background. Final judgements were pronounced in a total of three cases.

With regard to misdemeanour cases related to violations of the Anti-discrimination Act, a total of 15 cases were filed in 2010, with no outstanding cases remaining from the preceding period. Two newly filed cases concerned discrimination on the grounds of national background, while nine pertained to discrimination based on ethnic identity. These resulted in two convictions (one of which was for discrimination based on national background and one for discrimination on the grounds of ethnic identity) and two acquittals (both related to discrimination on the grounds of ethnic identity). Final judgements were pronounced in a total of four cases (one of which pertained to discrimination based on national background, while three concerned discrimination on grounds of ethnicity).

With regard to criminal cases related to violations of the Anti-discrimination Act, a total of five new cases were filed in 2011, with 12 outstanding cases remaining from the preceding period. Six cases resulted in legally-binding convictions. One case carried over from the preceding period, which was not resolved at the time, pertained to discrimination based on national background.

With regard to civil cases related to violations of the Anti-discrimination Act, a total of 29 cases were filed in 2011, of which seven pertained to discrimination based on national background. Furthermore, 13 final convictions were rendered in 2011, of which three pertained to cases of discrimination based on national background.

With regard to misdemeanour cases related to violations of the Anti-discrimination Act, a total of 47 cases were filed in 2011, of which 10 concerned discrimination based on national background, while eight pertained to discrimination on grounds of ethnicity. A total of 26 final judgements were pronounced in 2011, including eight convictions for discrimination on grounds of ethnicity and four convictions for discrimination based on national background.

With regard to criminal cases related to violations of the Anti-discrimination Act, a total of five new cases were filed in 2012 – the same as in 2011. Out of this number, three cases pertained to discrimination based on national background, and one to discrimination on the grounds of ethnicity. Final judgements were pronounced in a total of four cases. Among these, two cases related to discrimination based on national background were finally settled otherwise.

With regard to civil cases related to violations of the Anti-discrimination Act, a total of 64 cases were filed in 2012, which was much more than a year earlier, when 29 cases were

filed. Out of this number, seven cases concerned discrimination based on national background – the same as in 2011. Final judgments were pronounced in a total of 16 cases, which is more than in 2011, when a total of 13 cases were resolved. Out of this number, final decisions were pronounced in four cases related to discrimination based on national background, including two cases where claims were refused and two cases being settled otherwise, which is more than in 2011.

With regard to misdemeanour cases related to violations of the Anti-discrimination Act, a total of 63 cases were filed in 2012, which was more than in 2011, when a total of 47 cases were filed. Out of this number, 13 cases concerned discrimination based on national background, while five pertained to discrimination on the grounds of ethnicity. A total of 37 final judgements were pronounced in 2010, which is more than in 2011, where final judgments were pronounced in a total of 26 cases. Among these, there were five judgements in cases of discrimination on the grounds of ethnicity (3 convictions, 1 acquittal, and 1 case settled otherwise) and ten judgements in cases of discrimination based on national background (9 convictions and 1 case settled otherwise). In 2011, there was a total of eight convictions for discrimination on grounds of ethnicity and four convictions for discrimination based on national background.

With regard to criminal cases related to violations of the Anti-discrimination Act, a total of five new cases were filed in 2013 – the same as in 2012. Among these, one case pertained to discrimination on the grounds of ethnic identity, which was the same as in 2012, while none of them concerned discrimination based on national background, which is a decrease compared to 2012, when there were three such cases. A final judgment was pronounced in one case only, which is less than in 2012, when there was a total of four final judgements. The judgment pronounced pertains neither to discrimination based on ethnicity nor national background. At the end of 2013, there was a total backlog of 16 cases, which was more than a year earlier, when the backlog consisted of 12 cases.

With regard to civil cases related to violations of the Anti-discrimination Act, a total of 54 cases were filed in 2013, which is less than a year earlier, when 64 cases were filed. None of the filed cases pertained to discrimination on the grounds of ethnicity, which was the same as in 2012, while six cases concerned discrimination based on national background, which is almost the same as in 2012, when there were seven such cases. Final judgements were pronounced in a total of 29 cases, which is more than in 2012, when a total of 16 cases was resolved. None of those cases pertained to discrimination on the grounds of ethnicity, which was the same as in 2012, while five of them concerned discrimination based on national background, including three cases where claims were refused and two cases that were settled otherwise. This is a slight increase over 2012, when final judgements were pronounced in a total of four cases related to discrimination based on national background, including two cases where claims were refused and two cases were otherwise settled. At the end of the reporting period, there was a total backlog of 123 cases, which is more than in 2012, when the backlog was 100 cases.

With regard to misdemeanour cases related to violations of the Anti-discrimination Act, a total of 56 cases were filed in 2013, which was less than in 2012, when a total of 63 cases were filed. Among these, five cases concerned discrimination on the grounds of ethnicity, which was the same as in 2012, while 15 cases pertained to discrimination based on national background, which was slightly more than in 2012, when 13 such cases were filed.

A total of 55 final judgements were rendered in 2013, which was more than in 2012, when a total of 37 were rendered. Among these, three judgments were rendered in cases pertaining to discrimination on grounds of ethnicity (2 convictions and 1 acquittal), which was a bit less than in 2012, when five judgements were pronounced in such cases (3 convictions, 1 acquittal and 1 case settled otherwise). 13 judgements were pronounced in

cases concerning discrimination based on national background (12 convictions and 1 acquittal), which was more than in 2012, when 10 judgments were pronounced in such cases (9 convictions and 1 case settled otherwise). At the end of the reporting period, there was a total backlog of 59 cases, which was almost the same as in 2012, when the backlog consisted of a total of 58 cases.

The funds required to maintain the aforementioned data were secured in the Ministry's budget as part of operating expenses, with no need for any special funding.

As mentioned in the introductory remarks, the Republic of Croatia adopted the Anti-discrimination Act as a fundamental piece of legislation to combat any form of discrimination in society.

The Act has also introduced the definition of segregation as a forced and systematic separation of persons on any of the several grounds listed therein.

The Anti-discrimination Act specifies the Ombudsman's Office as the principal agency for combating discrimination in society, stipulates its obligation to prepare annual reports on enforcement of the Act, and recommends that it consult with the Council for National Minorities on state level as the supreme advisory body which was established, *inter alia*, to integrate national minorities into public life.

In September 2008 the Croatian Government also adopted the National Anti-discrimination Plan for the period 2008-2013, which contains measures to eliminate prejudice and stereotypes against national minorities, especially against the Roma national minority.

In line with the provisions of the Anti-discrimination Act, the Ministry of Justice developed a form to track the statistics of court cases related to discrimination and the grounds for discrimination cited in the charges (*Narodne novine*, no. 10/09). For the purpose of tracking these statistics, the misdemeanour, municipal and county court are obliged to submit quarterly reports to the Ministry.

To educate judicial officials and employees on tolerance and anti-discrimination, the Judicial Academy regularly organised training programmes in the period from 2009 to 2013. In addition to workshops and seminars dedicated solely to the issue of discrimination, education on combating discrimination was also organised through programmes dedicated to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

The events organised in 2009 included three workshops for judges on the "Application of the Anti-discrimination Act", held in Zagreb, Split and Osijek; a train-the-trainer programme organised through the project on "Building Capacity and Raising Awareness of Judges and Public Prosecutors on Anti-discrimination Legislation" (in collaboration with the International Organisation for Migration); and five workshops and two seminars on the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, organised for judges and judicial advisors from all levels of the judiciary and for state attorneys.

In 2010, four workshops on the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms were held for judges and judicial advisors from all levels of the judiciary as well as public prosecutors. In 2011, three workshops on the "Criminal Law Aspects of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms" were organised for the first generations of students at the State School for Judicial Officials, with a workshop entitled "Together to Fight Discrimination Against LGBTIQ Persons" being organised for public prosecutors.

The events held in 2012 included a two-day workshop for municipal court judges and judicial advisors on "European Systems for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms"; three workshops on the "Enforcement of the Anti-discrimination Act", including two workshops organised for municipal and county court judges in Zagreb and Split, and one workshop held in Zagreb solely for public prosecutors; and three workshops on the "Civil

Law Aspects of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms”, organised for the first generations of students at the State School for Judicial Officials.

In 2013, a workshop for municipal and county court judges on “Enforcement of the Anti-discrimination Act” was organised in Osijek as part of the IPA 2009 project on “Establishing a Comprehensive Anti-discrimination Protection System”.

The elements taken into account in the preparation of annual training programmes for judicial officials and advisors in judicial bodies included, inter alia, the obligations of the Judicial Academy to implement education, which stem from international legal instruments and national strategies and action plans.

From the Report of the Ministry of the Interior

With reference to the recommendations of the Advisory Committee (paragraphs 83-90 and 205), the Ministry of the Interior has reported that it accords particular attention to the prompt and lawful completion of procedures to ensure that persons belonging to the Roma national minority regulate their status in the Republic of Croatia and acquire Croatian citizenship.

By implementing the measures set in Chapter VI of the National Programme for the Roma, major progress has been made to successfully regulate the status of the Roma in the Republic of Croatia. The Ministry of the Interior – in co-operation with representatives from Roma organisations and, in particular, through mobile teams in charge of providing information and legal assistance – undertakes activities to inform the Roma about the legal framework for the regulation of their status in the Republic of Croatia.

Numerous activities have been implemented through round tables, creative workshops, public forums and expert lectures which, along with representatives from the Croatian Parliament, the Government and governmental administrative bodies, involved participation by representatives of the Roma National Minority Council, human rights NGOs and international organisations and institutions.

With regard to improvements in the legal framework, we should note that adoption of the Aliens Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 130/11 and 74/13), which entered into force on 1 January 2012 and was harmonised with the EU *acquis*, has additionally facilitated the regulation of the status of aliens.

Pursuant to the Ordinance on the Status and Employment of Aliens in the Republic of Croatia (*Narodne novine*, no. 52/12 and 81/13), which entered into force on 9 May 2012, social assistance has been included in the means of subsistence for aliens.

Any alien who was born and has been living in the Republic of Croatia since his/her birth, but was – for reasons beyond his/her control – not able to regulate his/her residence, may, by way of exception, be granted permanent residence (i.e. he/she does not need to meet the requirement of 5 years of uninterrupted legal stay in the Republic of Croatia, including temporary residence, asylum or subsidiary protection).

According to the official records of the Ministry of the Interior, 170 persons belonging to the Roma national minority were granted Croatian citizenship in the period from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2013, while 141 applications were denied. Also, 52 persons were issued with guarantees of admission to Croatian citizenship pending the submission of proof of their release from foreign citizenship. In 21 cases, decisions were made to reject the application or to terminate or suspend the procedure (due formal shortcomings, withdrawal of the application or death of the applicant). 20 applications for the admission of ethnic Roma to Croatian nationality are still pending.

In the period from 1 January to 31 December 2013, 34 ethnic Roma were granted Croatian citizenship, applications were rejected as unfounded for 16 such persons, 15 persons were issued with guarantees of Croatian citizenship, and in 7 cases the procedure was concluded by other appropriate decisions.

Pursuant to the Notification of Succession of 8 October 1991, the Republic of Croatia is a party to the Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons of 28 September 1954 (*Narodne novine* [International Treaties edition], no. 12/93). As part of its legislative procedure, the Croatian Parliament ratified the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (the Act Ratifying the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, *Narodne novine* [International Treaties edition], no. 8/11), whereupon the Republic of Croatia has increased its efforts to reduce statelessness cases and upgraded the legal framework it applies to this effect at the national and international levels.

Citizenship

With reference to the recommendations of the Advisory Committee (paragraphs 78-83 and 205), urging the authorities to discontinue the unequal treatment of persons belonging to national minorities when it comes to access to simplified procedures and dual citizenship which are currently only available to ethnic Croats, including those living abroad, it is worthwhile noting that citizenship is a special legal relation of permanent nature between the state and an individual and that it forms the basis for certain rights as well as obligations, both on the part of the state and on the part of the individual. Accordingly, the difference between the notion of citizenship and that of nationality bears emphasis, as the latter denotes the affiliation of an individual with a nation. Each state lays down its rules whereby it regulates citizenship, that is, the criteria that a person must meet to be able to acquire the citizenship of a given state and the conditions under which such citizenship may be terminated.

In this regard, Article 3 of the European Convention on Nationality of 1997 stipulates that each state will determine under its own law who are its citizens. Legislation pertaining to the acquisition of Croatian citizenship, in particular, the application of the Croatian Citizenship Act, does not compromise the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, nor guaranteed equality before law and equal legal protection of persons belonging to national minorities. In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia (*Narodne novine*, no. 85/10), all persons are equal before law and equal treatment is guaranteed to all persons belonging to national minorities. The sole requirement for the acquisition of Croatian citizenship is to fulfil the criteria stipulated by the Croatian Citizenship Act, regardless of the applicant's national affiliation.

It should be noted that the Amendments to the Croatian Citizenship Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 130/11) and the Aliens Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 130/11) entered into force on 1 January 2012. These laws instituted more favourable conditions under which returnees become eligible for permanent residence in the Republic of Croatia and, subsequently, for Croatian citizenship by naturalisation under privileged conditions. Article 94(1)(ii) of the effective Aliens Act stipulates that – all other legal requirements being met – an alien may be granted permanent residence under more favourable conditions if his/her residence in the Republic of Croatia was registered as such on 8 October 1991, if he/she is a beneficiary of a return, reconstruction or housing programme, which he/she must demonstrate by a certificate issued by the relevant governmental body in charge of refugees, and if it has been established that he/she has returned with the intention of permanent residence in the Republic of Croatia. In addition to relaxed eligibility criteria for permanent residence in the Republic of Croatia, the aforementioned category of aliens may also to acquire Croatian citizenship by naturalisation under facilitated conditions as soon as they are granted permanent residence, because – pursuant to Article 19 of the Amendments to the Aliens Act – they are deemed to

have met the legally required duration of residence in Croatia under all procedures for the acquisition of Croatian citizenship when their applications rely on any legal grounds associated with residence of aliens in the Republic of Croatia. Also noteworthy is that the requirements for the aforementioned category of aliens have been relaxed when it comes to demonstration of their knowledge of the Croatian language and Latin script in all procedures for the acquisition of Croatian citizenship when their applications rely upon any legal grounds associated with the residence of aliens in the Republic of Croatia. Specifically, pursuant to the provisions of the Ordinance on Testing the Knowledge of the Croatian Language and Latin Script, the Croatian Culture and Social System in Croatian Citizenship Procedures (*Narodne novine*, no. 118/12).

Concerning the naturalisation of adults as a regular way to acquire Croatian citizenship, the Amendments to the Aliens Act has modified the requirement on the duration of uninterrupted residence by replacing the previously required minimum of five years to a period of not less than eight years of uninterrupted registered residence in the territory of the Republic of Croatia, together with a grant of permanent residence. Also, persons older than 60 are not required to demonstrate their knowledge of the Croatian language and Latin script, Croatian culture and the social system of the Republic of Croatia.

With regard to the naturalisation of ethnic Croats as a privileged method to acquire Croatian citizenship, the Amendments to the Aliens Act expressly stipulates that a person demonstrates his/her Croatian ethnicity by his/her earlier declarations of such identity in legal transactions, statements of such identity in public documents, efforts to protect the rights and promote the interests of ethnic Croats, and active participation in Croatian cultural, scholarly and sports associations abroad.

Furthermore, the Amendments to the Aliens Act contains a definition of emigrants, that is, specifies those who are not deemed emigrants, limiting eligibility to acquire Croatian citizenship by naturalisation under privileged conditions for descendants of emigrants up to the third degree of direct kinship and their spouses. Also, changes have been made to criteria for the acquisition of Croatian citizenship in specific situations. Thus, a person born and living in the territory of the Republic of Croatia may acquire Croatian citizenship if he/she has been granted permanent residence and release from foreign citizenship or has furnished evidence that he/she will be granted such release if admitted to Croatian citizenship. A person married to a Croatian citizen may acquire Croatian citizenship if he/she has been granted permanent residence and lives in the territory of the Republic of Croatia.

Regulation of status

Pursuant to the Aliens Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 130/11 and 74/13), permanent residence may be granted to foreign citizens who have been residing in the Republic of Croatia for five years based on their temporary residence approval and who, in the procedure to obtain approval for permanent residence, demonstrate their knowledge of the Croatian language and Latin script and the Croatian culture and social system. However, preschool-age children, students or persons who have completed primary, secondary or higher education in the Republic of Croatia, as well as persons older than 65, if they are not employed, are not required to pass the test of their knowledge of the Croatian language and Latin script.

Also noteworthy is that the regulation of permanent residence is facilitated for aliens who are family members of Croatian citizens. Specifically, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter X of the Aliens Act, any such person is required to enclose to his/her application only a copy of his/her valid travel document.

With reference to the recommendations of the Advisory Committee under paragraphs 80-83, the Amendments to the Aliens Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 74/13) were drafted during 2013 and became effective on 27 June 2013. Furthermore, the minister of the

interior passed the Ordinance on the Status and Employment of Aliens (*Narodne novine*, no. 81/13), together with other subordinate legislation enacted to facilitate application of Aliens Act.

The novelties introduced by the amendments to the Aliens Act include a special alien's travel document that can be issued to any alien who has been granted temporary or permanent residence in the Republic of Croatia pursuant to the Aliens Act or who has been granted subsidiary protection under the Asylum Act and is prevented, for reasons beyond his/her control, from obtaining a national travel document.

The Amendments to the Aliens Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 74/13) has expanded the categories of aliens eligible to obtain permanent residence by additionally covering those who were born and have been lived ever since in the territory of the Republic of Croatia, but have been – for justified reasons beyond their control – unable to regulate their residence (Article 94(4)). This category of aliens may regulate permanent residence without having been previously granted temporary residence for a period of five years.

The amendments to the Aliens Act have also extended the possibilities to regulate permanent residence for children living in the Republic of Croatia with both parents having been granted permanent residence at the time of their birth, with one of their parents having been granted permanent residence at the time of their birth (subject to the consent of the other parent) or with one of their parents having been granted permanent residence at the time of their birth, and the other being unknown, dead, declared dead, deprived of parental care, or fully or partially deprived of their legal capacity with regard to parental care.

Situation concerning the Roma

With reference to the recommendations of the Advisory Committee under paragraphs 89 and 90, urging the Republic of Croatia to prevent, combat and sanction any form of inequality and discrimination suffered by the Roma, and to make efforts to improve their living conditions and their integration into society, in particular at the local level, it is important to note that – as part of implementation of the National Programme for the Roma – the police continuously monitored all events and instances with elements of violence against the Roma community and took appropriate action to prevent violent behaviour towards the Roma and violence within Roma communities, and to combat discrimination against the Roma.

Under the National Programme for the Roma and in collaboration with other bodies, the police are responsible for taking action to prevent violence against the Roma.

In the Republic of Croatia, there is no record of any systematic ethnically or racially motivated violence against the Roma. Instead, most of the cases involved verbal abuse by younger persons, often under the influence of alcohol. Also, violent behaviour has been noticed amongst the Roma themselves.

Through public media campaigns and other initiatives, the Roma and other citizens are encouraged to report any form of ethnic, racial or other violence against them, and all identified cases of violence are recorded and analytically monitored.

To ensure consistent implementation of measures under the National Programme for the Roma, extracurricular training initiatives were taken to make the overall operational staff of each police department aware of these measures. To this effect, efforts have been made since 1 January 2004 to analytically monitor acts of violence committed against the Roma by others, those committed by the Roma against others, and those committed amongst the Roma themselves (misdemeanours and crimes). As a result, quarterly analyses are made to monitor the security situation and the implementation of measures.

In co-operation with members of the Roma community, police officers on patrol in local communities undertake proactive and preventive measures to prevent any violence.

By implementing the “Police in the Community” Campaign Strategy and the “Operational and Preventive Enforcement Reform” project, neighbourhood contact officers are – within the jurisdictions of seven police departments – actively involved in monitoring and problem solving efforts in Roma settlements.

Also, within the jurisdiction of the Međimurje Police Department – which leads in the number of Roma settlements – contact districts have been established to cover these communities. In these districts, efforts are focused on handling relations between the residents of other local villages and Roma settlements. By tackling the problems of locals, police officers co-operate with, and are welcome by, Roma community members.

There is also a number of other activities being undertaken, such as citizen outreach initiatives and follow-up on complaints and objections, outreach activities and lectures at schools, contacts with media representatives, consultations about prevention and self-defence, education for children and youth, community actions, participation in local government efforts, etc. Also, collaboration with the Roma is reflected in the detection of perpetrators of crimes and misdemeanours from among the Roma population.

With reference to Article 5 of the Framework Convention

From the Report of the Ministry of Culture

In keeping with the Constitutional Act, persons belonging to national minorities may, in order to preserve, develop, promote and express their national and cultural identity, establish organisations, trusts and foundations as well as institutions for the performance of public information, cultural, publishing, museum, archival, library and scientific activities.

The operation of such institutions is financed by the Republic of Croatia and local and regional governments, within the limits of their capacity.

Through their organisations and institutions, persons belonging to national minorities have developed numerous activities in the fields of culture, publishing and information in order to preserve their national and cultural identity to the maximum extent possible. In recent years, many national minority organisations set up to preserve, develop and promote their national and cultural identity have marked two decades of active work.

Over this period, numerous initiatives and activities have been developed and many programmes have been implemented, often providing a contribution to Croatia’s cultural scene at the national level. Special progress has been made in the development of publishing and library activities as a reflection of the actual media environment in which minority members engage in creative work, and – when it comes to investing in minority heritage - the Republic of Croatia has once again committed most of its resources to the protection of immovable and movable cultural monuments, according special attention to the sacral heritage of ethnic Serbs in Croatia, namely, to more than 400 Serbian Orthodox Church buildings in the territory of Croatia at different states of preservation. Compared to the 2012 figures, when a total of HRK 2,511,736.00 was spent to finance 25 programmes aimed at preserving the cultural heritage of persons belonging to the Serbian national minority, HRK 5,467,172.00 was spent for that purpose in 2013, supporting a total of 60 programmes.

The most important network of minority institutions is definitely that of national minority libraries, which are continuously in the charge of the Ministry of Culture. These libraries constitute important centres of cultural life in their local communities as well as forums for international co-operation.

In 2009, the Ministry of Culture allocated HRK 10,624,963.19 for the protection of sacral structures, the operation of national minority libraries, the publishing activities and programmes of national minority institutions, museum and gallery activities, fine arts, music

and the performing and dramatic arts, including professional and amateur theatres. In 2010, the Ministry of Culture secured a total of HRK 11,573,568.66 to finance 124 programmes to meet community requirements of national minorities in the field of culture. In A total of HRK 16,703,591.18 was allocated in 2011, HRK 4,929,196.21 in 2012, and HRK 9,193,528.00 in 2013.

Overall, in the period from 2009 to 2013, the Ministry of Culture appropriated HRK 53,024,847.34 for programmes to meet community requirements of national minorities in the field of culture.

From the Report of the Council for National Minorities on state level
Programmes to achieve cultural autonomy in the Republic of Croatia from 2009 to 2013

The right to cultural autonomy for persons belonging to national minorities is set forth in Articles 15 and 16 of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities. Persons belonging to national minorities may, in order to preserve, develop, promote and express their national and cultural identity, establish organizations, trusts and foundations as well as institutions for the performance of public information, cultural, publishing, museum, archival, library and scholarly activities. The organizations of persons belonging to national minorities are free to maintain contacts across frontiers with people with whom they share the same linguistic, cultural and religious identity, as well as with legal entities having their registered offices within the countries of such people and performing educational, scientific, cultural, publishing and humanitarian activities.

Through their non-governmental organizations and institutions, persons belonging to national minorities have developed numerous activities in the fields of culture, publishing and information, thus preserving and promoting their national, cultural and linguistic identity and contributing their efforts to the multiculturalism of our society. By funding programmes in the field of cultural autonomy, the Croatian Government has been continuously supporting numerous forms of activities by national minority organizations and institutions.

Pursuant to Article 35(4) of the Constitutional Act, the Criteria for Establishing Financial Support for Programmes of National Minority Non-Governmental Organisations and Institutions (*Narodne novine*, no. 129/09 and 70/11) and the Methodology for Monitoring Implementation of Programmes of National Minority Non-Governmental Organisations and Institutions (*Narodne novine*, no. 129/09 and 70/11), the Council for National Minorities on state level allocates Central Budget funds to national minority organisations and institutions for their programmes to create conditions for the achievement of cultural autonomy of national minorities and the implementation of cultural autonomy programmes, thus maintaining support for the cultural activities of national minority organisations, ***in compliance with the recommendation of the Advisory Committee under paragraph 95.***

By allocating resources for the maintenance or construction of cultural centres, the procurement of equipment and the creation of other prerequisites for the operation of organisations and institutions, the material conditions have been created to achieve the cultural autonomy of minorities.

The Council announces a Public Invitation calling on organisations and institutions to propose their programmes in the fields of information, publishing, cultural amateur activities and cultural events to be co-financed from the Central Budget. Decisions on the allocation of budgetary appropriations to meet the needs of national minorities are proposed to the Council by the Commission for the Allocation of Funds to National Minority Organisations and Institutions. In proposing programmes for co-financing, the Commission – which is composed of Council representatives and external members – takes into account their quality, save for

programmes ensuing from bilateral agreements, the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Constitutional Act and the National Roma Inclusion Strategy from 2013 to 2020.

In 2009, to ensure transparency in the allocation of budgetary resources, the Council adopted new Criteria for Establishing Financial Support for Programmes of National Minority Non-Governmental Organisations, as well as the new Methodology for Monitoring the Implementation of Programmes of National Minority Non-Governmental Organisations and Institutions, as published in the *Narodne novine*, no. 129/09. Eligibility to apply for financial support has now been extended to cover organisations and institutions entered in the Register of Organisations and the Register of Institutions of the Republic of Croatia, provided that they have been active for a minimum of 24 months prior to their application and include at least 20 members belonging to national minorities. Pursuant to Article 2(1) of the Non-Profit Organisation Accounting Directive (*Narodne novine*, no. 10/08 and 7/09), such entities must be entered in the Register of Non-Profit Organisations, maintained by the Ministry of Finance.

In 2011, the Council passed the Amended Methodology for Monitoring the Implementation of Programmes of National Minority Non-Governmental Organisations and Institutions and the Decision Amending the Criteria for Establishing Financial Support for Programmes of National Minority Non-Governmental Organisations and Methodology for Monitoring the Implementation of Programmes of National Minority Non-Governmental Organisations and Institutions, as published in the *Narodne novine*, no. 70/11. The two regulations were thus aligned with the Budget Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 87/08 and 136/12), the Fiscal Accountability Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 139/10) and the Code of Positive Practices and Measures for Providing Financial Support to NGO Programmes and Projects (*Narodne novine*, no. 16/07). Provisions have been made to regulate the evaluation of proposed programmes as well as sanctions for failure to comply with the commitments agreed between the Council on one the hand, and organisations/institutions as budget users on the other.

In the period under review, a total of HRK 206,514,676.00 has been allocated through the Council to national minority organisations and institutions, in particular: HRK 43,590,000.00 in 2009, HRK 41,843,800.00 in 2010, HRK 41,336,318.00 in 2011, HRK 41,081,318.00 in 2012, and HRK 38,663,240.00 in 2013. A breakdown of funds allocated to national minority organisations and institutions is attached to this Report (Appendix 6).

The Council holds that visible progress has been made in the implementation of cultural autonomy programmes for national minorities and that the importance of co-financing cultural autonomy programmes from the Central Budget via the Council has been validated.

The review of quarterly, semi-annual and annual reports submitted by organisations and institutions shows that some of them still encounter difficulties in adjusting to the amended Criteria and Methodology, especially with regard to the submission of financial statements. Accordingly, further efforts are needed to educate them on the authorised use of budget funds and the reporting methodology, as well as how to apply for EU funds to finance minority programmes.

In 2012, the Council participated in a round table on the “Cultural Autonomy of Minorities in the Light of Croatia’s Full Membership in the EU”, which was organised in Okučani by the Serbian Democratic Forum and financed by the European Union, the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs and the Office for Co-operation with NGOs.

In the same year, the Council co-organised and sponsored a round table on the “Situation of National Minorities Following Croatia’s Accession to the EU – Achieving the Cultural Autonomy of National Minorities”. The round table served as an opportunity to present the Lipovljani Photo-Monograph (*Lipovljanski svjetlopis*), a bilingual book in

Croatian and Slovak, printed with the support of the Council and Slovakia's Government Office for Slovaks Living Abroad.

Furthermore, the Council for National Minorities on state level co-sponsored "Annales Pilar 2012 – National Minorities in Croatia and Croats as a minority – European Challenges," an international conference organised by the Ivo Pilar Social Sciences Institute and the Croatian Institute of History.

From the Report of the Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities

The Government of the Republic of Croatia has improved the conditions necessary for persons belonging to national minorities to maintain and develop their culture, religion, language, traditions and cultural heritage.

In the period under review, efforts have been continued to fund programmes undertaken by national minority organizations and institutions active in the territory of the Republic of Croatia, which have, however, broadened the scope of their activities to a considerable extent. In accordance with the financial assistance eligibility criteria, funding has been allocated for programmes in the fields of information, publishing, amateur cultural production and cultural events aimed at preserving the culture, language and customs of national minorities. In addition to these initiatives, funding has also been provided for programmes ensuing from bilateral agreements, a civic trust-building programme and programmes to create conditions for the achievement of cultural autonomy for the Roma, including efforts to assist the Roma national minority in ensuring conditions for its own cultural development.

In accordance with the Decision of the Council for National Minorities on state level, a total of HRK 206,514,676 was allocated from Croatia's Central Budget to fund the aforementioned programmes in the period from 2009 to 2013.

Albanians

For persons belonging to the Albanian national minority, the financing of cultural activities continued through the Union of Albanian Communities in the Republic of Croatia as their umbrella organisation, the Shkendija Albanian Cultural Society in Zagreb, the Queen Teuta Albanian Women's Club and the Forum of Albanian Intellectuals in Croatia. In the past period, the programme of amateur cultural production was carried out through Albanian communities organized at the county level, namely, those in the Counties of Zagreb, Istria, Primorje-Gorski Kotar, Zadar and Šibenik as well as the newly established organisations in the Counties of Split-Dalmatia and Osijek-Baranja.

For programmes of amateur cultural production and cultural events, Albanian national minority organisations were granted a total of HRK 4,448,000,00 during the period under review.

Bosniaks

For persons belonging to the Bosniak national minority, cultural activities are carried out within 15 organisations, including: Preporod – The Cultural Society of Bosniaks in Croatia (Zagreb), the Bosniak National Community of Croatia (Zagreb), the Bosniak National Community of Croatia for Sisak-Moslavina County, the Bosniak National Community of Istria (Pula), the Bosniak National Community of Primorje-Gorski Kotar County (Rijeka), the Bosniak National Community of Croatia for Vukovar-Srijem County (Vukovar), the Bosniak National Community for the City of Zagreb and Zagreb County (Zagreb), the Bosniak National Community of Zadar County (Zadar), Sabah – The Union of Bosniak Associations

in Croatia (Zagreb), the Sevdah Culture Club (Zagreb), the Bosna Culture Club of Istria County (Pula), the Nur Bosniak Culture Club (Sisak), the Behar Bosniak Culture Club (Gunja), the Selam Culture Club (Dubrovnik) and the Ljiljan Bosniak Culture Club (Drenovci).

For programmes of amateur cultural production and cultural events, Bosniak national minority organisations were granted a total of HRK 10,064,000.00 during the period under review.

Bulgarians

The National Community of Bulgarians in the Republic of Croatia has been established in Zagreb to preserve and promote the cultural, linguistic and national identity of the Bulgarian national minority. The National Community of Bulgarians carries out its information programme by printing the review *Rodna reč* ('Native Word'). As part of its publishing programme, it publishes books dealing with topics from the history of the Bulgarian national minority in Croatia.

For programmes of amateur cultural production and cultural events of the Bulgarian national minority, a total of HRK 491,000.00 was allocated during the period under review.

Montenegrins

For persons belonging to the Montenegrin national minority, cultural activities continued within the National Community of Montenegrins in Croatia, as well as through the Montenegro-Montenegrina Democratic Union in Osijek-Baranja County (Osijek) and the Community of Montenegrins in Primorje-Gorski Kotar County (Rijeka). The National Community of Montenegrins in Croatia implemented its programme of amateur cultural production and cultural events by organising art exhibitions and conferences and marking anniversaries important for the preservation of cultural, religious and national identity.

For programmes of amateur cultural production and cultural events, Montenegrin national minority organisations were granted a total of HRK 4,015,000.00 during the period under review.

Czechs

As the umbrella organisation of the Czech national minority, the Czech Union in the Republic of Croatia, with its headquarters in Daruvar, pools the efforts of 30 Czech cultural societies (known as *Beseda*) which, during the period under review, continued with the implementation of their programmes of amateur cultural production and cultural events through the work of drama, folklore, choral and musical groups. A total of HRK 18,654,660.00 was allocated for their programmes of amateur cultural production during the period under review.

Slovaks

In the past period, the Union of Slovaks in Našice has expanded its cultural activity through the establishment of another two regional community centres (*matica*). The Union of Slovaks presently pools the efforts of four cultural clubs and 16 Slovak community centres. A total of HRK 8,357,000.00 was allocated for their programmes in the fields of amateur cultural production and cultural events during the period under review.

Hungarians

For persons belonging to the Hungarian national minority, programmes of amateur cultural production and cultural events are implemented by the Democratic Union of Hungarians in Croatia, which has its seat in Osijek and pools the efforts of 17 cultural

organizations and clubs, and the Union of Hungarian Associations, which has its seat in Beli Manastir and brings together 31 cultural clubs and organizations. For programmes of amateur cultural production and cultural events, the two Hungarian umbrella organisations were granted a total of HRK 22,930,000.00 during the period under review.

Macedonians

During the period under review, the programme of amateur cultural production and cultural events for persons belonging to the Macedonian national minority was implemented through the Community of Macedonians in the Republic of Croatia (Zagreb), which carries out the said programme through the efforts of six Macedonian cultural societies including Ohridski biser (Zagreb), Ilinden (Rijeka), Braća Miladinovci (Osijek), Krste Misirkov (Zagreb), Makedonija (Split), Biljana (Zadar) and Sveti Kiril i Metodij (Pula). In addition to exhibitions and events organised to mark Ilinden (i.e. the Feast Day of St. Elias and, at the same time, the anniversary of the 1903 uprising) and other important anniversaries in Macedonian history, all culture societies organise Macedonian Culture Days.

For programmes of amateur cultural production and cultural events, Macedonian national minority organisations were granted a total of HRK 4,053,500.00 during the period under review.

Germans and Austrians

Persons belonging to the German and Austrian national minorities are organised around 5 NGOs registered in accordance with the Non-governmental Organizations Act. These include: the Union of Germans and Austrians in Croatia (Osijek Headquarters), the Community of Germans in Croatia (Zagreb), the German People's Union – National Association of Danube Swabians in Croatia (Osijek), the National Union of Germans in Croatia (Zagreb) and the Association of Germans and Austrians (Vukovar).

An important role in promoting and fostering German and Austrian identity is played by *Deutsches Wort* ('German Word'), a monthly issued in Osijek and published by the German People's Union of Osijek.

During the period under review, a total of HRK 3,970,000.00 was allocated from Croatia's Central Budget to the organisations of the German and Austrian minorities in order to achieve their ethnic rights, implement their information, publishing and amateur cultural activities, and organise their cultural events.

Poles

For persons belonging to the Polish national minority, the programme of amateur cultural production and cultural events has been implemented within two organizations, namely, the Mikolaj Kopernik Polish Cultural Association in Zagreb and the Fryderyk Chopin Polish Cultural Association in Rijeka, which bring together members of the Polish national minority with a view to promoting Polish national and cultural traditions, fostering the Polish language and culture and organizing commemorations, events on the occasion of Poland's Independence Day, exhibitions and lectures.

For programmes of amateur cultural production and cultural events, the organizations of the Polish national minority were granted a total of HRK 475,000.00 during the period under review.

Roma

During the period under review, the programme of amateur cultural production and cultural events for members of the Roma national minority was carried out through 19 organisations operating in the territory of several counties. In 2012, the Roma National Council was established with its headquarters in Zagreb.

For programmes of information, publishing and amateur cultural activities and cultural events of the Roma, a total of HRK 5,572,000.00 was allocated during the period under review.

Russians

During the period under review, the programme of amateur cultural production and cultural events was implemented under the National Community of Russians in Croatia, in particular, through the activities of the Ryabinushka Choir as well as events and exhibitions organized to promote the language, culture and traditions of the Russian national minority. In addition to the National Community of Russians in Croatia and in conformity with the Non-governmental Organizations Act, another two organisations of the Russian national minority are active in Croatia, namely, the Russian Cultural Circle – Society for the Affirmation and Promotion of Russian Culture (Zagreb) and Kalinka – The Međimurje Russophone Association (Čakovec).

During the period under review, a total of HRK 553.000,00 was allocated from Croatia's Central Budget for implementation of Russian cultural amateur production programmes.

Ruthenians and Ukrainians

Along with the Union of Ruthenians and Ukrainians in the Republic of Croatia, which is headquartered in Vukovar and implements a programme of amateur cultural production and cultural events through the efforts of folklore, music and choral groups, and the Ukrainian Culture Society of Zagreb, there is yet another organisation active in Croatia, namely, the Ukrainian Community in the Republic of Croatia, which gathers the largest numbers of ethnic Ukrainians with a view to promoting, preserving and enriching the identity and culture of the Ukrainian national minority. For programmes of amateur cultural production and cultural events, the organizations of the Ruthenian and Ukrainian national minorities were granted a total of HRK 8,449,000.00 during the period under review.

Slovenes

For persons belonging to the Slovenian national minority, cultural activities are implemented through the Union of Slovenian Associations in the Republic of Croatia, which is headquartered in Zagreb and pools the efforts of the earlier established Slovenian Home Culture Society (Zagreb), the Bazovica Culture and Education Society (Rijeka), the Triglav Slovenian Culture Society (Split), the France Prešern Slovenian Cultural Association (Šibenik), the “Lipa” Slovenian Cultural Society (Zadar), the Istria Slovenian Cultural Society (Pula), the Snežnik Slovenian Culture Society (Lovran), the Stanko Vraz Slovenian Culture Society (Osijek) and the Slovenian Home Culture Society (Karlovac).

For programmes of amateur cultural production and cultural events, Slovenian national minority organizations were granted a total of HRK 4,113,900.00 during the period under review.

Serbs

During the period under review, the Prosvjeta (‘Enlightenment’) Serbian Culture Society, with its headquarters in Zagreb, intensified its efforts in the field of amateur cultural production and cultural events, which are vital to the preservation of the culture, traditions and language of the Serbian national minority. The Society promotes and fosters the cultural identity of Serbs by implementing programmes of amateur cultural production and cultural events through 52 sub-committees.

The organizations established to represent the interests of the Serbian national minority include the Prosvjeta Serbian Culture Society (Zagreb), the Serbian Democratic Forum (Zagreb), the Serbian National Council (Zagreb), the National Council of Serbs (Zagreb) and the Joint Council of Municipalities (Vukovar). The Serbian National Council in Zagreb is the umbrella organization for members of the Serbian national minority, which implements programmes aimed at building civic trust and culture and regularly publishes a weekly news magazine called *Novosti*.

For programmes of amateur cultural production and cultural events, Serbian national minority culture societies and organizations were granted a total of HRK 56,713,000.00 during the period under review.

Italians

The Italian Union in Rijeka is the central association of the Italian national minority, which brings together nearly 50 Italian communities carrying out cultural programs aimed at preserving and developing their national and cultural identity. A total of HRK 42,883,000.00 was allocated for programmes related to amateur cultural production and cultural events during the period under review.

During this period, organizations of the Italian national minority were also provided with financial assistance for a programme ensuing from a bilateral agreement with the Republic of Italy. The aforementioned programmes are of particular importance to members of the Italian national minority because they contribute to the promotion of co-operation and unity among the members of that minority.

Jews

For persons belonging to the Jewish national minority, cultural activities are carried out through the Jewish Community in Zagreb, the Miroslav Šalom Freiburger Culture Centre (Zagreb), the CENDO Research and Documentation Centre (Zagreb), the Bejihad Jewish Culture Scene, the Association of Holocaust Survivors (Zagreb) and the Bet Israel Jewish Religious Community in Croatia. For their programmes of amateur cultural production and

cultural events, the organizations of the Jewish national minority were granted a total of HRK 3,969,000.00 during the period under review.

With reference to Article 6 of the Framework Convention

From the Report of the Ministry of Justice

With reference to *recommendation 109 of the Council of Europe Advisory Committee*, the Ministry of Justice highlights the following.

Croatia is committed to investigating, prosecuting and sanctioning all war crimes perpetrated during the armed conflicts in Croatia, regardless of the nationality of the perpetrators and those who ordered them. For this purpose, an effective strategic framework has been established, including an operative structure and the support services necessary for the robust investigation and prosecution of war crimes. This self-sustaining system guarantees the future long-term efforts of all relevant bodies aimed at the effectual prosecution of all perpetrators of war crimes and their superiors, regardless of ethnicity.

Many specific measures have been implemented in order to ensure the integrity and efficiency of criminal prosecution and to bolster evidentiary procedures.

In the Republic of Croatia, war crimes trials are conducted impartially, regardless of the ethnicity of the perpetrators. The territorial and exclusive jurisdiction of four specialized war crimes courts has been established, and their functioning has had a forceful and positive impact on legal and penal uniformity in the investigation and prosecution of war crimes.

In order to improve the quality of litigation and secure an adequate defence for indicted individuals, implementation of the Action Plan for the Appointment of Ex Officio Defence Counsels in War Crimes Cases is also ongoing.

The Public Prosecution, as the body which prosecutes criminal acts and their perpetrators, is obliged to initiate procedures against any persons for whom there exists reasonable suspicion that they perpetrated a crime, including war crimes. The fact that such individuals may have belonged to specific units and the nationality of the perpetrators or victims is not crucial to the initiation of prosecution, so the relevant public prosecutor's offices, based on evidence, have initiated criminal prosecution for war crimes committed in the territory of the Republic of Croatia by members of the Croatian armed forces or police.

Thus, criminal prosecution was initiated against 112 members of the Croatian military and police forces, indictments were raised against 94 individuals, 30 persons were convicted, and prosecution is still under way for 49 persons. Some cases concluded with the pronouncement of legally-binding convictions for war crimes in the territory of the Republic of Croatia, most often to the detriment of civilians outside the scope of combat operations.

The Republic of Croatia has also demonstrated its readiness to prosecute the highest Croatian military and police officials, so that prosecution was initiated against 23 persons based on command responsibility. Thus, among the senior and high command, indictments were raised against two chiefs of the Police Administration, of whom one was an advisor to the Minister of the Interior. Indictments were also raised against two generals. Such indictments indicate impartiality and the enforcement of uniform standards for all perpetrators.

With the conclusion of Chapter 23 – Justice and Fundamental Rights and its accession to the European Union on 1 July 2013 as its twenty-eighth member, the Republic of Croatia demonstrated its ongoing commitment to the investigation and prosecution of war crimes.

With regard to **recommendation 116 and recommendation 117 of the Advisory Committee** tied to the monitoring of hate crimes, in November 2011 a template was drafted for the statistical monitoring of court cases related to hate crimes in compliance with the Hate Crimes Response Protocol.

The Ministry of Justice, in compliance with the commitments undertaken under the Protocol, drafted the consolidated Hate Crimes Statistical Monitoring Template and the consolidated Hate-related Misdemeanour Monitoring Template.

From 1 January to 31 December 2011, out of the total 26 cases tied to hate crimes, 6 cases, in which 13 persons were charged, pertained to hate crimes motivated by national origin. Out of this number, one person was sentenced to prison.

In 2012, 5 unresolved cases remained from the preceding period tied to hate crimes motivated by national origin, while one new case of the same type arose. Out of this number, a total of 3 convictions were adjudicated. All 6 cases were resolved.

During the period from 1 January to 31 December 2013, a total of 17 hate-crime related cases were reported in line with Art. 89 pt. 36 of the Criminal Code, which is more than in the preceding year, when 6 were received. Out of this number, 6 cases pertained to hate crimes motivated by ethnicity, which was considerably more than in the preceding year, when only one such case was reported, while 7 pertained to hate crimes motivated by national origin, which was also considerably more than in the preceding year, when one such case was reported.

A total of 14 cases were resolved (8.5 convictions were meted out, 5.5 acquittals were pronounced), which is less than in 2012 when 19 were resolved (15 acquittals were pronounced, and 4 cases were resolved differently). In 2013, 3 of the convictions pertained to hate crimes motivated by ethnicity, which is more than in 2012, when there was one such conviction, while 2 verdicts pertained to the hate crimes motivated by national origin, which was less than in 2012, when there were 3 such verdicts.

At the end of the reporting period, a total of 11 cases remained unresolved, which is more than in 2012, when a total of 8 remained.

With regard to misdemeanours, those motivated by hate were separately designated. In 2013 there were 23 such acts, which is less than in 2012, when there were 37. One complaint was rejected, which is more than in 2012, when none of the filed complaints were rejected. One dismissal or acquittal was issued, which is much less than in 2012, when 13 were issued, while 9 legally-binding verdicts were pronounced, which is less than in 2012, when 12 were pronounced.

From the Report of the Ministry of the Interior

With reference to recommendation number 116, in which the Advisory Committee encourages the authorities to prevent, ascertain, investigate, prosecute and substantially sanction all racially and ethnically motivated acts, the Ministry of the Interior has reported that during 2013 a total of 35 hate crimes were perpetrated. Out of this number, 31 crimes, or 88.6%, were successfully resolved. In comparison to 2012, when 27 such crimes were recorded, this constituted a 29.1% increase in the number of crimes.

One of the possible reasons for the increase in reported crimes is raised public awareness thanks to numerous activities undertaken by NGOs in cooperation with the Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities. For these activities, which included participation by police officers, constituted an attempt to highlight the incidence and detrimental nature of hate crimes. They also demonstrate the public's confidence in the institutions tasked with the prevention of such phenomena.

With reference to recommendation number 117, in which the Advisory Committee strongly encourages the authorities to ensure energetic implementation of measures aimed at the prevention, investigation and prosecution of perpetrators of crimes motivated by hate, tied to the reinforcement of administrative capacity with the objective of more effective prevention of hate crimes, during 2013 training was conducted for 99 police officers in the Zagreb Police Department on the theme of hate crimes, with the goal of recognizing these crimes and a more effective response to their detection and prevention.

The Police Directorate is continually conducting activities under its jurisdiction which monitor and analyze events with the features of national or religious hatred and intolerance. In this sense, every police department in Croatia systematically monitors, gathers and analyzes all procedures pertaining to the problem of hate crimes perpetrated on religious, national, ethnic or other grounds. Specialized operative lines in the police departments are rapidly notified of all recorded events, this means police officers who become directly involved in the prosecution of these crimes.

Additionally, police officers are continually educated within the framework of national and international workshops and seminars at which prevention of hate crimes is deliberated.

The Recommendations put forth by the Advisory Committee charged with monitoring implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities for the period from 2009 to 2013, specifically its chapter on “Ethnically-motivated Incidents” expresses concern over the reportedly significant number of attacks on Roma and members of the Serbian minority.

In this vein, the Ministry of the Interior stresses that in specific situations, this exclusively involved a small number of individual and isolated attacks, without elements that would indicate the existence of any form of organized violence against the members of any national minority or ethnic community in the Republic of Croatia. By the same token, the completed analyses of hate crimes perpetrated against the members of any group in Croatia did not have the elements of organized perpetration of such acts by specific groups or organizations.

Ethnically motivated incidents in areas of special state concern

The Areas of Special State Concern Act (as published in *Narodne novine*, no.: 86/08, 57/11, 51A/13 and 148/13) established areas of special state concern (hereinafter: ASSC) in the Republic of Croatia and incentives for their reconstruction and development.

The circumstances that arose on the basis of the aggression against Croatia (first two groups) and the level of economic development, structural difficulties and demographic criteria (third group) were taken into consideration when classifying the ASSC.

These areas were established in order to alleviate the consequences of war and ensure the speedier return of the population that lived in these areas prior to Croatia’s Homeland War, encourage demographic and economic growth, and thereby also achieve more balanced development of all territories in Croatia. At the same time, these are also areas in which the population of the Serbian minority in the Republic of Croatia is more present in comparison to other national minorities.

Areas of special state concern (ASSC) were delineated in the territories of eleven (11) police departments, as follows: Bjelovar-Bilogora, Brod-Posavina, Karlovac, Lika-Senj, Osijek-Baranja, Požega-Slavonia, Sisak-Moslavina, Šibenik-Knin, Virovitica-Podravina, Vukovar-Srijem and Zadar.

In the 2010-2013 period, a total of 22,408 crimes were recorded, and a total of 10,606 misdemeanours were perpetrated as defined by the Public Peace and Order Disturbance Act.

In this period, a total of 133 events were recorded in areas of special state concern which had the features of interethnic intolerance.

It should be noted that in these areas of special state concern, 102,542 persons have returned according to the data provided by the relevant police departments.

Analyzing the state of security in the ASSC, it may be concluded that the problems surrounding crimes and misdemeanours in the ASSC do not essentially differ from the entire jurisdictional territories of the police departments in which there are legally established ASSCs.

With the objective of retaining the level of security and ensuring the unimpeded return of the population to the first two ASSC groups, various legal preventive and repressive measures are being undertaken, in particular: enhanced police patrols; prevention of attacks on individuals and devastation of their property; prevention of vandalization and destruction of monuments and memorial markers from the Second World War and the Homeland War, burial sites and religious and cultural structures, particularly those associated with national minorities; rapid initiation and conduct of criminal investigations in cases of crimes, particularly those with elements of hatred; cooperation with representatives of local and regional governments and citizens; cooperation with the relevant branch stations of the Security and Intelligence Agency; and other measures, depending on the security situation and individual events.

Prevention of disorder at sporting events

In cases of incidents during sporting events which contain elements of expression of or incitement to hatred or violence based on race, nationality, regional origin or religion, when the identity of the perpetrator(s) is ascertained, the police must file a complaint with the misdemeanour court with jurisdiction, in compliance with Article 4(1) of the Sporting Event Disorder Prevention Act. However, in cases when a high number of individuals shout out slurs that insult the feelings of citizens on any basis (race, nationality, religion, regional origin, etc.), the establishment of the identity of the perpetrator and proving that a specific individual was the actual perpetrator of this type of illegal behaviour is rendered difficult by the very number of persons situated in the place (a sporting event venue) at which these types of slurs are shouted. Besides cases in which illegal behaviour of this type occurred at sporting events entailing participation by spectators and athletes who were the target of slurs due to their race, nationality, religion or regional origin, the police attempts to implement measures within its authority even at events at which such behaviour is not expected.

As an example of police action pertaining to these forms of illegal behaviour, noteworthy is the international football match in the third round of qualifications for the UEFA Champions League between GNK Dinamo (Zagreb's main football club) and FC Sheriff, played in Zagreb on 30 July 2013, on which occasion a high number of spectators in the northern stands of the stadium shouted offensive slogans and songs. In response to this illegal behaviour, security guards with the help of police removed roughly 300 persons from the stands, while 68 were taken into custody by police officers and charges were filed against them for perpetration of the violations specified in Article 4(1) of the Sporting Event Disorder Prevention Act. By February 2014, the misdemeanour court has issued two legally-binding verdicts, while the remaining cases are still being processed (either in courts of first instance or in appellate courts).

Status and trends in crime and public peace and order

With reference to crimes and misdemeanours against the Roma, within the Roma community and perpetrated by Roma against persons of other nationality, in the period from 2010 to 2013 the following was registered:

TOTAL 2010-2013	No. of crimes/misdemeanours	No. of victims		No. of perpetrators	
		Roma	others	Roma	others
Crimes against Roma	285	328			186
Crimes perpetrated by Roma	3,527		2,794	5,812	
Crimes inside the Roma community	557	865		713	
Total crimes	4,369	1,193	2,794	6,525	186
Misdemeanours against Roma	260	347			271
Misdemeanours perpetrated by Roma	4,581		1,251	5,278	
Misdemeanours within Roma community	1,554	2,358		2,576	
Total misdemeanours	6,395	2,705	1.251	7,854	271

Crimes

- 285 crimes committed by 186 perpetrators of other nationalities against a total of 328 persons of Roma nationality,
- 557 crimes inside the Roma community (by Roma against Roma), wherein 713 perpetrators of Roma nationality committed crimes against 865 Roma as the victims,
- 3,527 crimes committed by a total of 5,812 perpetrators of Roma nationality against 2,794 persons of other nationalities.

Misdemeanours

- 260 misdemeanours committed by 271 perpetrators of other nationalities against a total of 347 persons of Roma nationality,
- 1,554 misdemeanours inside the Roma community (by Roma against Roma), wherein 2,576 perpetrators of Roma nationality committed misdemeanours against 2,358 Roma as victims,
- 4,581 misdemeanours committed by a total of 5,278 perpetrators of Roma nationality against 1,251 persons of other nationalities.

Based on all relevant indicators, it may be concluded that the safety of members of the Roma nationality minority is satisfactory, because the problems involving crime and misdemeanours tied to this population are not above the average for other citizens, and the police is undertaking all legal measures under its authority to secure the rights and freedoms of members of the Roma community.

Similarly, since the drafting of the last, Third Report of the Republic of Croatia on Implementation of the Framework Convention in 2009, in 2010 the Ministry of the Interior established a specialized operative crime prevention line, both at the national level as part of the Police Directorate and at the regional level in police departments. This has exceptional significance for this Ministry given the strategic commitment to the development of a proactive and pre-emptive approach to combating and preventing crime.

These specialized prevention services or sectors devise and develop projects and programmes for crime prevention aimed at sensitive social groups, create and implement public awareness-raising campaigns, and, within the framework of their work, cooperate with

non-governmental organizations, local and regional governments, international organizations such as UNDP, and so forth.

Over and above the aforementioned, the Ministry of the Interior and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) have – since 2010 – implemented a joint project called “Support in enforcement of systematic crime prevention work and establishment of crime prevention coordination unit”.

For in 2010, specialized organizational units for crime prevention were established within the Police Directorate and all police departments, which have among their priority areas of operation the prevention of crimes and misdemeanours, the creation and development of crime prevention projects and programmes intended for sensitive social groups and the creation and implementation of public awareness-raising campaigns.

It is precisely this preventive function of the police in these areas that conform to and respond to the Advisory Committee’s Recommendations specified in the Third Opinion on Croatia.

Thus in 2012, the Prevention Service of the Interior Ministry’s Police Directorate and the Kuršanec Primary School in the town of Čakovec initiated a joint preventive project under the slogan “I Have a Choice”.

This primary school, besides a higher share of pupils of the Roma national minority, also has rich experience in the successful implementation of various projects.

The purpose of the “I Have a Choice” project is to strengthen primary prevention of peer violence and vandalism, as well as domestic violence and violence against women, high-risk and socially-unacceptable behaviour by children and youth, drug abuse and other forms of addiction, cutting the risk of human trafficking and enhancing positive conduct in traffic.

Another purpose of the project is to enhance the social inclusion of the Roma in the community at the regional level, with emphasis on dialogue and respect for cultural similarities and differences through a culture of tolerance, non-violence and non-discrimination.

The project’s target group consists of children, pupils in the fourth and fifth grades of primary schools, but also their parents and teachers. The project proceeds throughout the school year through 10 units with a duration of 10 to 12 months, as follows: “The Police Officer – Friend and Helper”, “I Don’t Shop Where People Are Bought and Sold”, “There’s No Excuse for Violence”, “Say No to Drugs”, “Similar, But Different”, “Man Up, Change the Rules”, “Observe Our Signs”, “I Have a Choice – Art and Music Workshop”, “Life in the Police Academy”, and “Opportunity Fair”.

Representatives of the Police Directorate, the Zagreb and Međimurje Police Departments, the Croatian Red Cross, the Status M Youth Association and the UNDP are participating in the implementation of these project components.

During 2013, in cooperation with the Don’t Be Afraid/Madara Roma Association, the project began to be implemented in the City of Zagreb as well, with all corresponding components.

Besides the aforementioned, the Police Directorate’s Prevention Service, together with the United Nations Development Programme in the Republic of Croatia, the Šibenik-Knin Police Department and the Municipality of Kistanje, as well as other members of the community, have launched the initiative to enhance and make fully functional the local Kistanje Municipal Crime Prevention Board.

This Board’s effective work and the activities of the entire local community should contribute to the systematic implementation of prevention programs and projects focused on children, youth and their parents, with the ultimate objective of building a culture of non-violence, non-discrimination and tolerance and the prevention of various forms of impermissible behaviour among children and youth in this municipality’s territory.

Besides this, the Prevention Service, in cooperation with other organizational units in the Police Directorate, implements measures and activities in compliance with the National Roma Inclusion Strategy and the corresponding Action Plan.

With reference to Articles 7 and 8 of the Framework Convention

From the Report of the Council for National Minorities on state level

Based on an analysis of the operations of national minority NGOs and institutions, the Council stressed the necessity for amendments to the Non-governmental Organizations Act on several occasions, and during 2012 it submitted its comments on the Draft Associations Bill to the Ministry of Public Administration. For Article 10 of the NGO Act stipulates that an association may be established a minimum of three founders, and that a founder may be a natural person with legal capacity or a legal person. Associations and institutions with only three founders (most often natural persons) submit draft programs in response to the Public Invitation for the Proposal of Programs to Exercise Cultural Autonomy that will be financed from the Central Budget. This leads to the fragmentation of funding and reduces the possibility of full implementation of important programs to preserve and advance the cultural identity of national minorities, which is the primary objective of budgetary allocations.

The concept and features of national minority NGOs and institutions, in compliance with the provisions of the Constitutional Act, essentially differ from those specified in the NGO Act. The Constitutional Act stipulates that the members of minorities may establish associations, endowments and foundations, and institutions in the interest of preserving, promoting and expressing their national and cultural identities, which may engage in the public dissemination of information and cultural, publishing, museum, archival, library and scholarly activities.

With regard to the entry of association names in the register, their names must be subject to approval, because it has occurred that names using umbrella, global, European or international designations indicate a level of activity that does not correspond to their actual status and leads to misunderstandings in institutions conducting tenders for the allocation of funding.

Furthermore, with the aim of controlling the activity of associations, the Council has proposed setting limit on the number of associations which a single person may establish, since this creates possibilities for various forms of manipulation, illegality and “ethno-business”.

The Council has noted that Article 27(5) of the Bill, which stipulates that the Government shall issue a directive at the proposal of the Office for Cooperation with NGOs to regulate the criteria, measures and procedures to finance association programs of general public interest does not comply with the Constitutional Act. In compliance with Article 35(4) of the Constitutional Act, the Council independently and autonomously allocates the funds secured from the Central Budget for the needs of national minorities. Therefore, the Council proposed to the Ministry of Public Administration that this specific aspect of financing cultural autonomy programs via the Council be incorporated into aforementioned article.

The alignment of the NGO Act with the Fiscal Accountability Act has been proposed, in order to enable budget beneficiaries (donors) to exercise oversight of end users (associations) and, in case of suspected irregularities, notify the relevant authorities, halt disbursements and seek a refund to the Central Budget.

From the Report of the Ministry of Public Administration

The religious integrity of each member of a national minority, as well as the freedom of religious affiliation and expression of one's faith, the establishment of schools, institutes and other associations are guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia and the Religious Community Legal Status Act (as published in *Narodne novine*, no. 83/02 and 73/13).

According to Article 2 of the latter Act, religious communities independently and freely determine their internal organization, managing bodies, their hierarchy and responsibilities; the bodies and individuals that represent the religious community and its organizational forms; the content and manner of their expressions of faith; the maintenance of ties with their central authority and with other religious communities, association with other religious communities, and other matters concerning their activities in compliance with the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia.

If sought by an individual religious community and the union of religious communities, religious communities and their organizational forms are entered in the Records of Religious Communities in the Republic of Croatia (hereinafter: Records) maintained by the Ministry of Public Administration in compliance with the Ordinance on Registration Templates and Methods for the Maintenance of the Records of Religious Communities in the Republic of Croatia (*Narodne novine*, no. 9/03, 12/03, 24/04, 144/10 and 124/12). The Records are maintained in electronic form and the data on registered legal persons are public and accessible online.

In compliance with Article 15 of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities, the members of national minorities may, in order to preserve, develop, promote and express their national and cultural identity, establish associations, endowments and foundations.

The establishment and operation of associations is governed by the Non-governmental Organizations Act (as published in *Narodne novine*, no. 88/01 and 11/02) and the Ordinance on the Registration Templates and Method for Maintenance of the Register of Associations of the Republic of Croatia and the Register of Foreign Associations in the Republic of Croatia (*Narodne novine*, no. 11/02 and 144/10), while the establishment and operation of endowments and foundations is regulated by the Endowment and Foundation Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 36/95 and 64/01) and the Ordinance on Entry in the Endowments Register (*Narodne novine*, no. 4/96, 103/01 and 144/10).

Based on the location of their seat, associations in the Republic of Croatia are entered in the associations register maintained by the state administrative offices in the regional governmental units and by the City General Administrative Office in Zagreb.

In compliance with Article 12(3) of the NGO Act, an association which has as its objective the protection and promotion of the interests of members of national minorities may have its name in the language and script of the relevant national minority in addition to its name in the Croatian language written in Latin script.

The Associations Register is maintained in electronic form, consolidated for all associations in the Republic of Croatia, and it is public, and the data on all registered associations are available online.

Additionally, the Endowments Register in which all endowments and foundations in Croatia are entered is also public, and the data on all entities are also available online.

From the Report of the Office of the Commission on Relations with Religious Communities

In the interest of creating the appropriate conditions for expression, preservation, development and self-identification in Croatia, the Croatian Government concluded Agreements on Matters of Common Interest with six national churches of minorities in Croatia, as follows:

1. the Serbian Orthodox Church in Croatia,
2. the Islamic Community in Croatia,

3. the Bulgarian Orthodox Church in Croatia,
4. the Macedonian Orthodox Church in Croatia,
5. the Coordinated Jewish Communities in the Republic of Croatia,
6. the Bet-Israel Jewish Religious Community in Croatia.

Thus, the rights of national minorities are not only secured by the Constitution and law, as they are also worked out in further detail by the aforementioned agreements.

Under these agreements, the religious communities of national minorities are guaranteed the freedom to gather, associate, express their opinions and profess their faith, establish institutions, organizations and associations, and offer spiritual guidance in hospitals, social institutions, prisons and other correctional facilities, the police and the armed forces. It is noteworthy that regular financial support from the Central Budget, the right to provide preschool education in kindergartens and religious instruction in primary and secondary schools, and the conclusion of marriages in religious rites with the same status as civil-law marriages have also been secured.

This is followed by data on the amounts of regular financial support from the Central State Budget in the 2009-2013 period:

		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
1.	Serbian Orthodox Church in Croatia	9,800,613	9,655,708	9,655,708	9,655,708	8,381,152
2.	Islamic Community in Croatia	2,986,839	2,942,692	2,942,692	2,942,692	2,554,256
3.	Bulgarian Orthodox Church in Croatia	160,751	158,375	158,375	158,375	158,372
4.	Macedonian Orthodox Church in Croatia	689,669	679,476	679,476	679,476	589,784
5.	Coordinated Jewish Communities in the Republic of Croatia	622,260	613,061	613,061	613,061	532,136
6.	Bet-Israel Jewish Religious Community in Croatia	414,839	408,708	408,708	408,708	354,756

With reference to Article 9 of the Framework Convention

The media play a crucial role in the promotion of equality of national minorities, the creation of mutual tolerance, the promotion of coexistence with the majority nation and the preservation of the cultural identity of members of national minorities, and the publicly-funded media are duty bound to contribute to the promotion and observance of fundamental human rights and freedoms, understanding, respect for diversity, democratic achievements and the development of a culture of dialogue in compliance with their own programming principles. The national broadcaster Croatian Radio-Television submits an annual report to the Council for National Minorities on state level on produced and aired programmes and reports on members of national minorities in the Republic of Croatia, and during 2012 the problem of representation of programmes intended for national minorities in the public media was also deliberated at meetings held with the top management of Croatian Radio-Television.

The seventh consecutive seminar on implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of Human Rights, organized by the Croatian Government's Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities and the Council for National Minorities on state level, was held in Zagreb on 20 April 2012, at which the report of the National Minority Cultural Autonomy and Media Access Task Force was presented.

The Council for National Minorities on state level was the joint organizer of the educational seminar on "Socio-Cultural and Political Precepts for the Further Development of National Minority Rights in Croatian Society", as part of the European Union project "Broadening Public Awareness of Multiethnicity as Positive Social Capital in the Development of Returnee Local Communities", in Zadar from 8-10 November 2012.

Workshops were held at the seminar on the Role of the Media and Development of Cultural Tolerance, which underlined the importance of the media in the perception of national minorities. Within the framework of the same project, the Council participated in the educational seminar on Developmental Potential of Multiethnic and Returnee Areas in Gospić from 8-10 March 2012. A specially organized workshop dealt with the Organization and Actualization of Educational/Informative Talk Radio Broadcasts – Multiethnicity and Development and Media Approaches to Promotion of Tolerance and Multiethnicity as Positive Social Values.

Electronic Media Pluralism and Diversity Fund

The exercise of the right to access to the public media is exceptionally important to members of national minorities. National minorities have pointed out on numerous occasions the inadequate coverage of events and issues from their lives and work in the public media.

In compliance with Article 64 of the Electronic Media Act (as published in *Narodne novine*, no. 153/09, 84/11, 94/13 and 136/13) and the Rules on the Methods and Procedures for Public Tenders to Co-finance Audiovisual and Radio Programming by the Electronic Media Pluralism and Diversity Fund, the Criteria for Allocation of Funds and the Methods for Monitoring Expenditures and the Development of Funded Programming (as published in *Narodne novine*, no. 43/10 and 141/10), the Electronic Media Council conducts procedures to allocate the Electronic Media Pluralism and Diversity Fund's resources.

The procedure for the allocation of funding is conducted by means of a public tender, and in compliance with subordinate legislation and the Electronic Media Pluralism and Diversity Fund's Allocation Program, approved by the Anti-trust Agency.

The sources of the Fund's finances consists of payments from Croatian Radio-Television, which pays 3% of its monthly sum of collected subscription fees to the Fund's special account, in compliance with the provisions of the Croatian Radio-Television Act and the Electronic Media Act.

The Fund's financing encourages production and broadcasting of audiovisual and radio programming of public interest at the local and regional levels, and audiovisual and radio programming by non-profit television and/or radio broadcasters, and it is particularly vital for: exercise of the right of citizens to public information, encouragement of cultural diversity and nurturing of the heritage, the development of education, scholarship and the arts, promotion of creativity in dialects of the Croatian language, promotion of special programming in areas of special state concern, national minorities in Croatia, promotion of awareness-raising on gender equality and encouragement of high-quality programming for children and youth aimed at furthering their well-being.

From the Report of the Electronic Media Council

In 2009, an amount of HRK 2,696,161.91 was allocated by means of the Electronic Media Pluralism and Diversity Fund for the production of programming content intended for national minorities.

The Electronic Media Council made a decision in March 2010 to post a public tender for allocations from the Electronic Media Pluralism and Diversity Fund, and the decision to allocate funding was made on 19 July 2010. In the public tender, programs were submitted by 21 television broadcasters and 147 radio broadcasters. One of the categories in which broadcasters may submit programming is "National Minorities in the Republic of Croatia". In this category, radio broadcasters have received a total amount of HRK 1,285,399.21, while television broadcasters have received a sum of HRK 1,513,029.51. The Electronic Media Agency has stressed that the amount of total funding allocated in this category depends

exclusively on applications from broadcasters, i.e., the number and quality of submitted programs on which the Electronic Media Council cannot influence in any way whatsoever.

In the public tender held in 2011, 21 television broadcasters and 139 radio broadcasters submitted their programme proposals. HRK 4,890,000.00 were set aside in the “National Minorities in the Republic of Croatia” category. Radio and television broadcasters demonstrated an interest in HRK 4,292,781.31 through their bids submitted in the public tender, and after the proposed programmes were evaluated, HRK 2,497,906.63 were allocated.

In 2012, the Electronic Media Council announced a public tender for allocations from the Electronic Media Pluralism and Diversity Fund. In the “National Minorities in the Republic of Croatia” category, a total amount of HRK 1,089,629.85 was allocated to radio broadcasters, while HRK 1,405,443.48 was allocated to television broadcasters.

In the public tender posted by the Council in 2013, broadcasters expressed an interest in HRK 2,452,592.92 in the “National Minorities in the Republic of Croatia” category through their proposals, and after evaluation HRK 1,287,362.30 were allocated, which constitutes a share of 8% of total allocations. In this category, television broadcasters expressed an interest in an amount of HRK 2,366,609.75, and upon evaluation HRK 1,538,422.41 were allocated, which is a share of 10% of total allocations.

In compliance with these data, in the preceding period, a total of HRK 13,313,355.30 were set aside for the production of programming content intended for national minorities from the Electronic Media Pluralism and Diversity Fund.

Croatian Radio-Television

Under the Croatian Radio-Television Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 137/10 and 76/12), Croatian Radio-Television (hereinafter, HRT) is, in pursuing its programming principles, obliged to produce and/or broadcast programmes dedicated to informing persons belonging to national minorities in the Republic of Croatia.

In January 2013, HRT and the Government of the Republic of Croatia concluded an agreement for the period from 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2013, which – *inter alia* – provides for HRT’s programming obligations ensuing from Article 9(2)(vi) of the HRT Act, including its obligation to produce, co-produce and broadcast programmes aimed at providing persons belonging to national minorities in the Republic of Croatia with information in their mother tongues, including children’s programmes in national minority languages.

Accordingly, the Agreement sets forth HRT’s annual obligation to broadcast, on its national radio channels, a minimum of 60 programmes aimed at providing members of national minorities with information in the Croatian language, and to use its regional channels in areas with significant national minority populations for broadcasting a series of additional daily or weekly programmes in national minority languages (Pula and Rijeka – in Italian; Osijek – in Hungarian and Slovak), including specialised music content. The Knin and Dubrovnik Regional Centres are obliged to broadcast programmes in the Croatian language, dedicated to the Serbian and Bosniak national minorities, respectively.

Pursuant to the Agreement, HRT is also required to broadcast, on its national television channels, weekly programmes dedicated to informing national minorities, partly in their mother tongues, including the obligation to ensure that its news programmes of regional significance cover issues and problems specific to regionally present national minorities.

With regard to programming content, the Agreement provides that programmes should deal with minority rights and their violation, political participation, employment, activism and education in minority languages, with special focus on preserving and documenting the cultural and traditional customs of national minorities in order to present, in the best possible way, the authentic identity of each of the 22 national minorities in the Republic of Croatia, as

well as showcasing work with children belonging to national minorities. Content involving children belonging to national minorities as well as that targeted at them should be presented as part of both radio and television programmes for children and youth. HRT will continue to take care of the education of reporters belonging to national minorities, who can use national minority languages or work on programmes in national minority languages.

HRT's legal obligation to produce and broadcast programmes dedicated to informing national minorities is mostly met through its programmes called *Prizma* ("Prism") and *Manjinski mozaik* ("Minority Mosaic") as well as its daily news programmes.

HRT has been broadcasting *Prizma* for 21 years (without changing its time slot), which has definitely contributed to creating an affirmative environment for national minorities and breaking down a deep-rooted prejudice against minorities in Croatian society. Over many years of its broadcasting, the show has achieved high viewer ratings, which clearly suggests it is regularly followed by the majority population as well.

In May 2010, to ensure that national minority members are provided with as much content as possible in their mother tongues, Croatian Television launched *Manjinski mozaik* – a programme fully broadcast in the language of a particular minority. Its production is funded by HRT.

The efforts to meet the needs of national minorities in Croatia have also been made by other programming departments, including the Culture Department (in particular, its Popular and Traditional Culture Section), the Religious Culture Department, the Children and Youth Department, the Science and Education Department and, to a lesser extent, the Entertainment Department.

Croatian Television presents the work and creative endeavours of national minorities through different television formats and genres, music shows, overviews of events and festivals, reports, documentaries, live or delayed feeds, etc.

Report on Croatian Radio programmes for national minorities in the Republic of Croatia

In line with the Constitutional National Minority Rights and Croatian Radio-Television Act, Croatian Radio produces and broadcasts information and programmes for national minorities without using funds from the central budget of the Republic of Croatia. The only exception is the International Channel *Glas Hrvatske* (Voice of Croatia), which is co-financed by Croatian Radio and the Government of the Republic of Croatia and whose role is, among other things, to inform national minorities through *Multikultura* ('Multiculture') – a show which is also rebroadcast on Croatian Radio's Channel One. As a public service, Croatian Radio accords particular attention to the promotion of tolerance, multi-ethnicity and interculturalism. It is believed that minority issues should not be dealt with only in specialised programmes, but also in regular news programmes as well as daily broadcasts, such as *U mreži Prvoga* ('In the Channel One Network') and weekly shows, such as *Građanski glas* (Civic Voice – a programme on civil society). Particularly noteworthy are programmes produced by the Religious Department, which fully implement the Agreement on Representation of Non-Catholic Religious Communities on Croatian Radio.

Croatian Radio's News Department dedicates great attention to systematic reporting on the lives, problems and activities of national minority members in Croatia and tries to sensitise the public on these issues and help develop a multi-ethnic and tolerant society. In addition to regular specialised programmes such as *Agora*, whose broadcasting was continued in the period under review, minority issues were dealt with in widest possible range of different programmes – from contact shows to news programmes – in order to avoid ghettoization and attract as many listeners as possible.

Multikultura is a programme dedicated to the life and endeavours of national minorities in Croatia. It is broadcast on Voice of Croatia – Croatian Radio’s international channel – and its Channel One. It is conceived as a magazine programme, which means that each show comprises, on average, five to six different topical items, mainly dealing with issues related to various minority communities. By taking account of the radio format and, in the first place, the attractive content which is – from the editorial and journalistic perspective - considered interesting to listeners, *Multikultura* presents topics and content related to the activities of the Croatian Government’s Council for National Minorities on state level, the Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities, and the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities, as well as other governmental agencies in charge of minority issues and minority organisations and institutions as bodies implementing activities and programmes.

With reference to Articles 10 and 11 of the Framework Convention

Equality in the official use of national minority languages and scripts

From the report of the Ministry of Public Administration

Equality in the official use of national minority languages and scripts is regulated by: the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia, specifically in Articles 12 and 15, the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities and by the National Minority Language and Script Use Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 51/00).

The Croatian language and the Latin script are in official use in the Republic of Croatia, pursuant to Article 12 of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia, while in certain local units, an another language and the Cyrillic or any other script may be introduced along with the Croatian language and the Latin script, pursuant to the criteria prescribed by law. Article 15 (4) provides for the freedom of persons belonging to all national minorities to express their national identity, to freely use their language and script and to exercise their cultural autonomy.

The official use of national minority languages, the right to use their national minority language, as well as the right to declare themselves as persons belonging to a national minority, or the right to use his or her first name and surname in his or her language, are among the rights that the Republic of Croatia secures for persons belonging to national minorities.

Article 12 of the Constitutional Act provides for the exercise of equality in the official use of a national minority language and script in a local governmental unit in which persons belonging to a national minority comprise a minimum of one third of the population. Equality in the official use of a national minority language and script is also exercised when so mandated by international treaties which, pursuant to the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia, form a part of the internal legal order of the Republic of Croatia or when so stipulated for by the charter of a local government or by the charter of a regional government in accordance with the provisions of a special law on the use of national minority languages and scripts in the Republic of Croatia, and in accordance with established rights.

Other conditions ensuing from Article 12 (3) of the Constitutional Act and the manner of official use of languages and scripts by persons belonging to a national minority in representative and executive bodies and in proceedings before first-instance state administrative bodies, in hearings before courts of first instance; in procedures conducted by the Public Prosecutor and notaries public, and before legal entities vested with public authority are regulated by a special law governing the use of national minority languages and

scripts or the Act on the National Minority Language and Script Use Act. It is noteworthy that the National Minority Language and Script Use Act neither alters nor revokes the rights of persons belonging to national minorities stipulated by international treaties to which the Republic of Croatia is a party or the rights established by the regulations in effect until entry into force of this Act.

The National Minority Language and Script Use Act (Articles 12-19) stipulates:

- a) the rights of persons belonging to national minorities to equality in the official use of their national minority languages and scripts in procedures before first-instance state administrative bodies with offices and branch offices in municipalities, towns and counties where both the Croatian language and the Latin script and a national minority language and script are in equal official use, and further also stipulates:
- b) that first-instance state administrative bodies with offices and branch offices in municipalities, towns and counties where both the Croatian language and the Latin script and a national minority language and script are in equal official use, at the request of a citizen, must compose issue bilingual or multilingual:
 1. public documents
 2. printed templates for official purposes, and
- c) that first-instance state administrative bodies with offices and branch offices in municipalities, towns and counties where both the Croatian language and the Latin script and a national minority language and script are in equal official use, compose bilingual or multilingual:
 1. texts of stamps and emblems in the same size script,
 2. official signs,
 3. official document letterheads in the same size script.

The provisions of Articles 8, 9, 10, and 11 of the Act regulate the following:

- the activities of municipal and city councils, and of municipal and city governments, and the activities of county assemblies and city governments in the Croatian language and the Latin script and a national minority language and script that are in equal official use;
- bilingual or multilingual composition of texts of stamps and emblems in the same size script;
- composition of sign boards of representative, executive and administrative bodies of municipalities, towns and counties and of legal entities vested with public authority in the same size script, and the issuing document headers in the same size script;
- delivery of bilingual or multilingual materials for assemblies to a councillor and to a member of the government; compilation of minutes and public posting of conclusions, and publication of official announcements and summons of the representative, executive and administrative bodies of these units;
- issuing public (bilingual or multilingual) documents to citizens, and printing of templates for official purposes;
- composition of (bilingual or multilingual) traffic signs and other traffic markers, and street and square names and designations of geographic sites in the same size script, and
- the right of persons belonging to a national minority to use the language and script in equal official use in first-instance and appeals proceedings before the administrative bodies of municipalities, towns and counties.

The Republic of Croatia, as a signatory to the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (*Narodne novine* [international treaties edition], no. 18/97), is committed to the recognition, respect, promotion and protection of regional or minority languages. The Ministry of Public Administration continuously monitors and analyses the situation pertaining to official and public use of national minority languages and scripts.

The official results of the 2011 Population Census were published in December 2012, after which the Ministry of Public Administration conducted an analysis of the published results, in particular of those local governmental units in which equal official use of a national minority language and script is required on the basis of the share of national minorities in the population of said unit or on the basis of a minimum of one third of persons belonging to national minorities in said unit.

On 1 March 2012, the Ministry of Public Administration issued the Instructions for Consistent Implementation of the National Minority Language and Script Use Act (Class: 016-01/10-01/63; Reg. no.: 515-02-01-02/1-12-01) which stipulates the manner of regulating the right to equal official use of national minority languages and scripts by general ordinances and the charters of local and regional governments and the manner for exercising the right to equality in the official use of national minority languages and scripts in proceedings before first-instance state administrative bodies and legal entities vested with public authority. The Instructions were published in *Narodne novine*, no. 33/12.

Since the relevant regulations do not govern the periods within which a local government in which the right to equal official use of a national minority language and script is exercised on the basis of the share of persons belonging to a national minority in the population of the unit (a minimum of one third) is obliged to secure and regulate by means of its charter the exercise of the relevant right within its territory, the Ministry of Public Administration has issued its opinion to the effect that the statutory regulation of the exercise of the right in question, or the alignment of a governmental unit, shall be addressed within a “suitable” period following the official release of the 2011 Population Census results. The “suitable” period, by means of proper application of Article 28 of the National Minority Language and Script Use Act which stipulates that municipalities, towns and counties are obliged to align their charters with the provisions of this Act within six months after the date of its entry into force and submit them without delay to the central state administrative bodies authorised to monitor enforcement of this Act, should not exceed six months after the date of the official release of the 2011 Population Census results.

Prior to monitoring, the Ministry of Public Administration held consultations for the purpose of informing the representatives of local governments obliged to regulate the exercise of the right to equal official use of a national minority language and script in their charters of legislative provisions and their meaning in practice with indication of positive examples.

The first consultations (working meeting) were held in Gospić on 31 October 2013. The municipal chief officials of Donji Lapac, Vrhovine, Biskupija, Ervenik, Kistanje, Civiljane, and Gračac were summoned to the meeting, together with their deputies of either Serbian or Croatian ethnicity, as were the prefects of Šibenik-Knin, Zadar, and Lika-Senj Counties together with their deputies from the Serbian national minority and the chiefs of staff of the State Administrative Offices in Šibenik-Knin, Zadar, and Lika-Senj Counties.

The second meeting was held on 21 October 2013 in Karlovac. The municipal chief officials from Končanica, Plaški, Krnjak, Vojnić, Dvor, Gvozd, and Donji Kukuruzari were summoned together with the mayor of Vrbovsko and their deputies of either Serbian or Croatian ethnicity, as were the prefects of Primorje-Gorski Kotar, Karlovac, Bjelovar-Bilogora, and Sisak-Moslavina Counties and their deputies belonging to the Serbian or Czech national minorities.

The scheduled third meeting will be held for the local governments from eastern Croatia. Once all of the planned meetings are held, the Ministry of Public Administration shall monitor and require from all local governmental units in which equal official use of a national minority language and script is required on the basis of the share of national minorities in the local population or on the basis of a minimum one-third share of persons belonging to national minorities in that unit, that they align their charters with the law (if they

have not already done so), i.e. stipulate equal official use of a national minority language and script and regulate the exercise of individual rights as required by law.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Public Administration required data on the alignment of charters with the law for 27 municipalities and towns where persons belonging to a national minority account for a minimum of one third of the population. It was ascertained that 10 local governments had fully aligned their charters with legislative provisions requiring equal official use of languages and scripts, 12 units had adopted a general provision on the equal official use of a national minority language and script without elaborating the exercise of individual rights as provided by law, and 5 local governments did not specify equal official use of a national minority language and script at all, nor did they regulate the exercise of individual rights as required by law (one of the units was in the process of amending its charter for the purpose of regulating equal official use of a national minority language and script in its territory).

The City of Vukovar is among those local governments that are, on the basis of the share of persons belonging to national minorities in the population of a unit, i.e. on the basis of a minimum one-third share of persons belonging to national minorities in the local population, obliged by law to stipulate equal official use of the Serbian national minority language and script. Contrary to legal provisions, the government of the City of Vukovar has adopted amendments to its charter which exempt it from the obligation to secure equal official use of the Serbian language and the Cyrillic script. Namely, on 13 November 2013 the Ministry of Public Administration received notification from the Serbian National Minority Council in the Town of Vukovar of 11 November 2013, whereby, pursuant to Article 32(2) of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities, the Ministry of Public Administration was informed that the government of the City of Vukovar, during its session held on 4 November 2013, adopted a decision on amendments to the Charter of the City of Vukovar.

The Ministry of Public Administration ascertained that Article 22 of the decision in question violates the provisions of Articles 3, 5 and 12 of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia, Article 12 of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities, and the provisions of the National Minority Language and Script Use Act, on the basis of which a decision was reached that suspended enforcement of said provision.

As a consequence, pursuant to the provisions of Article 32(5) of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities and of Article 24 of the National Minority Language and Script Use Act, the Ministry of Public Administration asked the Government of the Republic of Croatia to institute proceedings before the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Croatia, pursuant to Article 35 of the Republic of Croatia Constitutional Court Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 99/99, 29/02 and 49/02 – consolidated text) for the assessment of conformity of the amendments to the Vukovar city charter (Article 22) with the Constitution and law. The Government of the Republic of Croatia said amendments at its session held on 12 December 2013.

In conclusion, the Ministry of Public Administration sent a memorandum to remind all authorised central state administrative bodies of their obligation to make and post sign boards for all state administrative bodies that have their branch offices or regional units in the territory of those local governmental units where the equal official use of the Serbian national minority language and script is exercised since such branch offices or regional units are located only in those units with equal official use of the Serbian language and the Cyrillic script. The translation of the texts on the sign boards was made by the relevant authorities in cooperation with the relevant councillors of the Serbian national minority from those local governments in which the posting of sign boards in the Serbian national minority language and script is required.

Furthermore, following the enactment of these Instructions, the Ministry of Public Administration and the Local Democracy Academy scheduled for four regional seminars: in Drniš on 11 July for Šibenik-Knin and Zadar Counties; in Rovinj on 12 July for Istria County; in Vukovar on 25 September 2012 for Osijek-Baranja and Vukovar-Srijem Counties and in Karlovac on 27 September 2012 for Karlovac, Sisak-Moslavina, and Lika-Senj Counties.

According to the data from June 2013, national minority languages and scripts are in equal official use in a total of 55 local units, or in 27 units where persons belonging to a national minority account for a minimum of one third of the population, and in 28 units where equal official use of a national minority languages and scripts was instituted by their charters.

The list of municipalities and towns in which persons belonging to a national minority account for a minimum of one third of the population according to the 2011 Population Census:

Municipality / Town	County	Language	Share of population%
Municipality of Končanica	Bjelovar-Bilogora	Czech	47.03
Municipality of Plaški	Karlovac	Serbian	45.55
Municipality of Krnjak	Karlovac	Serbian	68.61
Municipality of Vojnić	Karlovac	Serbian	44.71
Municipality of Donji Lapac	Lika-Senj	Serbian	80.64
Municipality of Vrhovine	Lika-Senj	Serbian	80.23
Municipality of Udbina	Lika-Senj	Serbian	51.12
Municipality of Kneževi Vinogradi	Osijek-Baranja	Hungarian	38.66
Municipality of Punitovci	Osijek-Baranja	Slovak	36.94
Municipality of Šodolovci	Osijek-Baranja	Serbian	82.58
Municipality of Jagodnjak	Osijek-Baranja	Serbian	65.89
Municipality of Erdut	Osijek-Baranja	Serbian	54.56
Municipality of Bilje	Osijek-Baranja	Hungarian	29.62
Town of Vrbovsko	Primorje-Gorski Kotar	Serbian	35.22
Municipality of Dvor	Sisak-Moslavina	Serbian	71.9
Municipality of Gvozd	Sisak-Moslavina	Serbian	66.53
Municipality of Donji Kukuruzari	Sisak-Moslavina	Serbian	34.82
Municipality of Biskupija	Šibenik-Knin	Serbian	85.46
Municipality of Civljane	Šibenik-Knin	Serbian	78.66
Municipality of Kistanje	Šibenik-Knin	Serbian	62.22
Municipality of Ervenik	Šibenik-Knin	Serbian	97.19
Municipality of Markušica	Vukovar-Srijem	Serbian	90.1
Municipality of Trpinja	Vukovar-Srijem	Serbian	89.75
City of Vukovar	Vukovar-Srijem	Serbian	34.87
Municipality of Negoslavci	Vukovar-Srijem	Serbian	96.86
Municipality of Borovo	Vukovar-Srijem	Serbian	89.73
Municipality of Gračac	Zadar	Serbian	45.16
Municipality of Grožnjan	Istria	Italian	39.4

Compared to the 2001 Population Census, the number of persons belonging to the Serbian national minority increased in the Municipality of Donji Kukuruzari and in the City of Vukovar to a share which is higher than one third of the population, thus creating legislative conditions for equal use of the Serbian language and script in these units.

In the municipalities of Bilje and Brtonigla, the share of persons belonging to minorities decreased to below one third compared to the 2001 Population Census, which is why the stated municipalities no longer have the legislative obligation to mandate the use of national minority languages and scripts by their charters.

Municipality	County	Language	Share of population%
Municipality of Bilje	Osijek-Baranja	Hungarian	29.62
Municipality of Brtonigla	Istria	Italian	30.14

An overview of the local and regional governments in which the official equal use of national minority languages and scripts is stipulated by their charters:

Bjelovar-Bilogora County

The Town of Daruvar: the Czech language is in use in certain parts of the town.

Primorje-Gorski Kotar County

The City of Rijeka: the Italian language was introduced into official use by the charter.

The Town of Cres: the Italian language was introduced into official use by the charter.

Osijek-Baranja County

The Municipality of Ernestinovo: the Hungarian language and script were introduced in one area.

Vukovar-Srijem County

The Municipality of Bilje: the Hungarian language and script are in use in certain areas in which Hungarians are present in a higher number.

The Municipality of Kneževi Vinogradi introduced the use of the Serbian and Hungarian languages by their charters.

The Municipality of Bogdanovci introduced the use of the Ruthenian language by its charter in certain areas in which persons belonging to minorities are present in a higher number.

The Municipality of Tordinci introduced the Hungarian language by its charter in certain areas in which the persons belonging to minorities are present in a higher number.

In Istria County, the Italian language has been introduced in equal official use in the following local and regional governmental units by their charters:

Istria County

The Town of Poreč

The City of Pula

The Town of Buje

The Town of Rovinj

The Town of Umag

The Town of Vodnjan

The Municipality of Bale

The Municipality of Brtonigla

The Municipality of Funtana
 The Municipality of Grožnjan
 The Municipality of Fažana
 The Municipality of Kaštelir-Labinci
 The Municipality of Ližnjan (in a single settlement)
 The Municipality of Motovun
 The Municipality of Oprtalj
 The Municipality of Tar Vabriga
 The Municipality of Višnjan (in several settlements)
 The Municipality of Vrsar.

The Ministry of Public Administration has estimated that no significant changes occurred by the year 2013 pertaining to alignment of the charters of governments with the relevant provisions of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities and the National Minority Language and Script Use Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 51/00 and 56/00 – corrigendum). No significant changes were noted regarding any non-uniform approach to the statutory regulation of the exercise of the right to equal official use of national minority languages and scripts, nor with reference to the fact that certain units, despite their currently existing obligation, failed to align their charters with relevant regulations, or that they failed to do so in an appropriate manner.

The exercise of the rights of persons belonging to the Italian national minority to equal official use of the Italian language and script in Istria County (in those units where stipulated by their charters) still stands as an example of good practice.

With regard to the preservation of traditional names and signs and the use of insignia and symbols of national minorities, Article 13 of the Constitutional Act stipulates that the law regulating use of national minority languages and scripts and/or the charters of local units stipulate the measures enabling the preservation of traditional names and signs and the formal naming of places, streets and squares for persons and events of historical and cultural significance to a given national minority in the Republic of Croatia in areas inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities either traditionally or in a significant number.

The National Minority Language and Script Use Act (Article 10) stipulates that the charter of a municipality or town with equal official use of a national minority language and script shall stipulate whether the traditional names of places or territories will be used in smaller settlements.

Persons belonging to national minorities, pursuant to the Constitutional Act, may freely use their insignia and symbols, and also celebrate their holidays, while local units are obliged to regulate the official use and manner of use of the national flag and symbols of national minorities by their charters. In the majority of local units inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities either traditionally or in a significant number, among other rights, the official use and manner of use of the national minority insignia and symbols is regulated by their charters, as is the right minorities to the preservation of traditional names and signs and the naming of places, streets and squares for persons and events of historical and cultural significance to the national minority in the Republic of Croatia.

From the Report of the Ministry of Justice
Use of a minority language before the courts

The Ministry of Justice, on the basis of data collected by the courts, maintains records on judicial proceedings regarding the application of Article 12 of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities. Subsequently, it established the relevant database.

In the Pula County Court in 2010, there were no cases conducted in a minority language, or the parties declined conducting the proceedings in a national minority language.

In the municipal courts in Buje, Labin, Pazin, Pula, and Poreč in 2010, there were no cases conducted in a minority language or the parties did not request/declined conducting the proceedings in a minority language.

In the Rovinj Municipal Court, a total of 18 proceedings were conducted in the Italian minority language, 3 of which were civil proceedings, 10 probate and 5 land registry proceedings, while in 45 proceedings the parties declined the right (to use the Italian language), 12 of which were criminal, 15 civil, 10 extra-judicial, and 8 probate proceedings.

In the Bjelovar County Court in 2010, there were no proceedings conducted in a minority language. In the Bjelovar Municipal Court, one criminal proceeding in 2010 was conducted in the Czech minority language, while in the Daruvar Municipal Court there were no proceedings conducted in a minority language, although in 51 proceedings the parties were offered the possibility of conducting the hearing in a minority language, four of which were criminal proceedings in the Albanian language, two criminal proceedings in the Romani language, five criminal proceedings in the Czech language, one criminal proceeding in the Macedonian language, one criminal proceeding in the Polish language, and 38 criminal proceedings in the Serbian language; however, the parties waived this right.

In the Šibenik County Court in 2010, no proceedings were conducted in a minority language, nor were any in the municipal courts in Knin and Šibenik. At the same time, the parties did not request/declined the possibility of conducting the proceedings in a national minority language.

In the Osijek County Court in 2010, no proceedings were conducted in a minority language, nor were any in the municipal courts in Beli Manastir, Đakovo, Našice, Valpovo, and Osijek. At the same time, the parties did not request/declined the possibility of conducting the proceedings in a national minority language.

In the Vukovar County in 2010, no proceedings were conducted in a minority language, nor were any in the municipal courts in Vinkovci, Županja and Vukovar. The parties did not request/declined the possibility of conducting the proceedings in a national minority language.

In the Ivanić Grad Municipal Court in 2010, one civil proceeding was conducted in the Czech language.

In the Pula Misdemeanour Court in 2010, 18 proceedings were conducted in the Italian national minority language, while in 74 misdemeanour proceedings the parties, although offered, waived the right proceedings conducted in a national minority language (Italian).

In the Rovinj Misdemeanour Court in 2010, no proceedings were conducted in a minority language, although in 31 proceedings the parties were offered the possibility of conducting of the proceedings in the Italian national minority language, but they all waived this right.

In the Pazin Misdemeanour Court in 2010, one proceeding was conducted in the Italian national minority language, while in 2 proceedings the parties were offered the possibility of conducting of proceedings in the Serbian national minority language, however, the parties waived this right.

In the Umag Misdemeanour Court in 2010, two misdemeanour proceedings were conducted in the Italian national minority language, while in one preceding the party waived this right (Italian language).

In the Šibenik and Knin Misdemeanour Courts in 2010, no proceedings were conducted in a minority language. The parties did not request/declined the possibility of conducting proceedings in a national minority language.

In the misdemeanour courts in Đakovo, Našice, Valpovo, and Beli Manastir in 2010, no proceedings were conducted in a minority language. The parties did not request/declined the possibility of conducting proceedings in a national minority language.

In the Osijek Misdemeanour Court in 2010, no proceedings were conducted in a minority language, while in 11 proceedings the parties were offered this right (once in the Hungarian language, one in the Czech language and nine times in the Serbian language), but they waived it.

In the Vukovar Misdemeanour Court in 2010, no proceedings were conducted in a minority language, while in one proceeding a party was offered the possibility of conducting the proceeding in the Hungarian language, but waived this right.

In the Vinkovci Misdemeanour Court in 2010, no proceedings were conducted in a minority language, while in 89 proceedings the parties waived the right to conduct proceedings in a minority language (14 in the Hungarian language, one in the Ruthenian language and 74 in the Serbian language).

In the Križevci Misdemeanour Court in 2010, one misdemeanour proceeding was conducted in the Serbian national minority language.

In the Ivanić Grad Misdemeanour Court in 2010, no proceedings were conducted in a minority language, while in one proceeding a party was offered the possibility of conducting the proceedings in the Serbian language, but waived this right.

During 2011, 3 proceedings were conducted in a national minority language in misdemeanour courts, while in 338 cases the parties waived this right.

Table showing the proceedings conducted before municipal and misdemeanour courts in a national minority language and those in which the parties waived the right to proceedings in a national minority language.

MINORITY LANGUAGE	Municipal courts		Misdemeanour courts		Total conducted	Total (parties waived right)
	Proceedings conducted	Parties waived right	Proceedings conducted	Parties waived right		
Italian	0	103	1	138	1	241
Hungarian	0	1	1	0	1	1
Czech	0	6	0	0	0	6
Slovak	0	0	0	1	0	0
Ruthenian	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ukrainian	0	0	1	0	1	0
Serbian	0	40	0	50	0	90
TOTAL	0	150	3	189	3	338

It may be concluded from the data presented above that in proceedings before the courts, all citizens/persons belonging to national minorities were presented with the possibility of using national minority languages and scripts.

With regard to the 2011 data, an almost equal number of proceedings was conducted in 2012 in a national minority language, but the number of cases in which the parties waived the right is higher. This can be concluded from the table below.

Table showing proceedings conducted before municipal and misdemeanour courts in a national minority language and those in which the parties waived the right to conduct proceedings in a national minority language.

LANGUAGE	Municipal courts	Misdemeanour courts	Total	TOTAL
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	Proceedings conducted	Parties waived right	Proceedings conducted	Parties waived right	conducted	(parties waived right)
Italian	2	210	0	77	2	287
Hungarian	0	1	0	11	0	12
Czech	0	0	0	1	0	1
Slovak	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ruthenian	0	0	0	1	0	1
Ukrainian	0	0	0	0	0	0
Serbian	0	3	0	183	0	186
TOTAL	2	214	0	273	2	487

A total of 10 proceedings (6 civil and 4 extra-judicial) were conducted in the Italian language in the Rovinj-Rovigno Municipal Court during 2013. 14 parties waived the right to use of the Italian language in the same Court. In the Umag Misdemeanour Court, one party declined the right to use of the Italian language.

In 2012, the Ministry of Justice also printed promotional leaflets for the purpose of informing parties in proceedings before judicial bodies that are obliged to implement the National Minority Language and Script Use Act on the manner in which they can exercise the right to use of a national minority language in proceedings conducted before those bodies. The leaflets informed the persons belonging to national minorities of their right to use of a minority language as an official language before judicial bodies of the first degree, pursuant to Article 12 of the National Minority Language and Script Use Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 51/00 and 56/00).

In June of 2012, the leaflets were distributed to judicial bodies that are obliged to implement the National Minority Language and Script Use Act, with a request that they be posted in a visible place, thus enabling all interested parties the opportunity to learn about their content and exercise their right to the use of a national minority language in proceedings conducted before those bodies.

The Ministry of Justice successfully completed the implementation of the Case Management System (eSpis) in the remaining 33 municipal courts in the Republic of Croatia, which marked the completion of gradual implementation of the eSpis system into all commercial, county and 65 municipal courts in the Republic of Croatia. The implementation of the system in Croatian courts commenced in November 2008 within the PHARE 2006 program and was completed within IPA 2009 program. This project was worth €519,989.00, 85% of which was co-financed by the European Union.

Along with the implementation of the eSpis System into the remaining 33 courts, this project also entailed the design and launch of the e-Predmet web service (<http://e-predmet.pravosudje.hr>) to enable public access to basic data on judiciary cases to all parties, authorised representatives and other interested parties that participate in judicial proceedings free of charge. By searching under court and administrative case numbers, visitors can get the information on the progress and the dynamics of the cases in both the ordinary and appellate proceedings. Since the System updates the data on cases every day, the parties have virtually current access on the status of their cases while the courts are freed from such inquiries, allowing them to dedicate more of their time to the more efficient settlement of cases.

The project shall, in the long term, contribute to the reform of the Croatian judiciary through increased system-wide efficiency and transparency. The Case Management System will facilitate current access to cases for both the courts and the general public while taking

into account the protection of personal data of all participants. This will improve case management, accelerate data exchanges between the courts and other public administrative bodies, and optimise costs. By applying an algorithm for the automatic allocation of cases to judges, the eSpis System shall encompass an anti-corruption component, thereby enhancing public trust in the Croatian judiciary.

From the Report of the Ministry of the Interior

With regard to further recommendations made by the Advisory Committee pertaining to use of national minority languages in local administrative bodies, we may report that pursuant to Article 10 of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, the implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities (*Narodne novine*, no. 155/02) has been ensured.

Namely, Article 9 (2) of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities stipulates that persons belonging to national minorities have the right to an identity card application printed in the language and script which they use, and they may fill out the application in this language.

Pursuant Articles 8 (2) and (3) of the Identity Card Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 11/02, 122/02, 31/06, and 68/13), when stipulated by special legislation or international agreements, an identity card application for a person belonging to a national minority is also printed in the national minority language, and it is completed in the Croatian language and the Latin script and in the language and scripts of the person belonging to a national minority.

A survey of identity cards issued to persons belonging to national minorities during the years 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013, and printed in the languages and scripts of persons belonging to national minorities, is given below:

National minority:	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
- Italian	2,708	2,163	2,319	2,608	6,524
- Serbian	43	71	62	81	114
- Hungarian	24	32	31	23	30
- Czech	1	9	18	28	69
- Ruthenian	-	-	4	1	3
- Slovak	-	-	-	1	2
TOTAL:	2,776	2,275	2,434	2,742	6,742

In 2013, a significant increase was observed in the issuing of bilingual identity cards in comparison to the preceding year. As in 2012, the right to obtain bilingual identity cards was mostly exercised by the persons belonging to the Italian, Serbian, and Czech national minorities.

During the period between 1 January and 31 December 2013, 6,524 bilingual identity cards were issued to persons belonging to the Italian national minority, or 3,916 bilingual identity cards more compared to 2012. During this period, 114 bilingual identity cards were issued to persons belonging to the Serbian national minority, or 33 bilingual identity cards more compared to the preceding year. During 2013, 69 bilingual identity cards were issued to persons belonging to the Czech national minority, or 41 identity cards more compared to 2012.

In 2013, 30 bilingual identity cards were issued to persons belonging to the Hungarian national minority, or 7 bilingual identity cards more compared to the preceding year. An increase was also noted in the issuing of bilingual identity cards to persons belonging to the Ruthenian and Slovak national minorities compared to the preceding year, since in 2013, 3 bilingual identity cards were issued to persons belonging to the Ruthenian national minority, and 2 bilingual identity cards were issued to persons belonging to the Slovak national minority,

while in 2012, one bilingual identity card each was issued to persons belonging to each of these national minorities.

In 2013, the police departments and police stations of the Ministry of the Interior received no requests for instituting administrative proceedings in national minority languages and scripts. However, in 2013, 526 bilingual certificates (in Croatian and Italian) were issued to persons belonging to national minorities at their request. The Istria Police Department and its police stations issued 513 bilingual certificates in Croatian and Italian, while the Primorje-Gorski Kotar Police Administration issued 13 of these certificates. The number of bilingual certificates issued in 2013, on which the Ministry of the Interior maintains official records, decreased by 200 certificates compared to 2012.

Furthermore, the police departments and police stations of the Ministry of the Interior provide citizens, at their request, with bilingual certificates on the data maintained by the Ministry of the Interior.

Preservation of national minority traditional names and signs, and use of national minority insignia and symbols

Article 13 of the Constitutional Act stipulates that the law regulating use of national minority languages and scripts and/or the charters of local units stipulate measures that, in areas inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities either traditionally or in a significant number, facilitate preservation of traditional names and signs, and the naming of places, streets and squares for persons and events of historical and cultural significance to the national minority in the Republic of Croatia.

The National Minority Language and Script Use Act (Article 10) stipulates that the charter of a municipality or town with equal official use of a national minority language and script shall stipulate whether the traditional names of places or territories are used in smaller settlements.

Pursuant to the Constitutional Act, persons belonging to national minorities may freely use their insignia and symbols, and also celebrate their holidays, while local units are obliged to regulate the official use and manner of use of the national flag and symbols of national minorities by their charters.

In the majority of local units inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities either traditionally or in a significant number, among other rights, the official use and the manner of use of the insignia and symbols of national minorities is regulated by their charters, as is the right of persons belonging to minorities to the preservation of traditional names and signs, and the naming of places, streets and squares for persons and events of historical and cultural significance to the national minority in the Republic of Croatia. In those units, pursuant to their charters, persons belonging to minorities, when celebrating national holidays or during cultural and other events, may use their national insignia together with the insignia and symbols of the Republic of Croatia.

With reference to Articles 12, 13 and 14 of the Framework Convention

From the Report of the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports

Education in national minority languages and scripts is an integral part of the overall educational system, and the educational policy's fundamental documents apply to this segment of the educational system as well.

The right of persons belonging to national minorities to education in their languages and scripts is primarily stipulated by the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia, the

Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities (*Narodne novine*, no. 155/02) and especially by the National Minority Language and Script Education Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 51/00 and 56/00). The Ordinance on Completion of the School-leaving Examination (*Narodne novine*, no. 97/08, 127/10 and 1/13) provides for the possibility of taking the examination in a national minority language and script, or in the language and script in which persons belonging to a national minority were educated. In November 2012, the National Roma Inclusion Strategy was adopted for the period from 2013 to 2020 together with the Action Plan for the Strategy's implementation.

During the past four years, a significant change has been observed in improving the quality of education in a national minority language and script.

For the purpose of comprehensive application of Article 11 of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities to all national minorities that express their interest and providing conditions for consistent application of the National Minority Language and Script Education Act, the Government of the Republic of Croatia adopted the Action Plan for implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities for the period from 2013 to 2015.

Co-financing is provided for the publication of original textbooks (in Czech, Hungarian, Serbian, and Italian) which correspond to the curriculum and the translation of a considerable number of textbooks required for primary education (for the Czech, Hungarian, Serbian, and the Italian national minorities).

The process of reviewing the alignment of textbooks with the textbook standard and their approval involves the teachers who teach in national minority languages and scripts.

All requests for approval of mother tongue and culture curricula according to Model C are approved along with an appropriate amount of working time for employing teachers.

Pupils in grammar schools and four-year vocational and art schools who are educated in national minority languages and scripts take the National School-Leaving Examinations in their mother tongues.

The curricula were officially published for Czech, Hungarian, Serbian, and Italian for primary and secondary schools.

Pursuant to the measures contained in the National Programme for the Roma and the Action Plan for the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015, the inclusion of the Roma children into integrated pre-school education and primary school preparation programmes was increased along with the number of pupils included in primary and secondary education, the number of students in higher education and the number of pupils and students belonging to the Roma national minority in pupil/student dormitories.

Co-financing is provided for the parental share for children belonging to the Roma national minority who are included in the integrated pre-school education.

Pre-school/primary/secondary school teachers who teach in national minority languages and scripts are continuously educated and their skills are refined in Croatia, while their education is also facilitated in the countries of their core nations. At the same time, such education is recognized for promotion to the rank of advisor and mentor.

The number of pupils educated in national minority languages varies; the decrease in the number of pupils is reduced, while in the case of certain minorities, a slight increase is observed in the number of attendants. A decrease in the number of pupils within Model A has been observed along with a certain increase in the number of pupils in Model C.

The National Educational Standards (*Narodne novine*, no. 63/08 and 90/10) allows pupils in national minority languages and scripts to choose the most favourable educational model. By providing schools with the stated standards, a higher level of flexibility was achieved in organizing education in a single shift.

The Ordinance on Completion of the School-leaving Examination (*Narodne novine*, no. 97/08, 127/10 and 1/13) allows persons belonging to the Hungarian, Serbian and Italian national minorities who are educated in national minority languages and scripts to take the mandatory section of the National School-leaving Examination in the national minority language in which they are educated together with the Croatian language examination, while they may choose either mathematics or a foreign language in the mandatory section's third component.

In the enforcement of the educational provisions of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities as well as the National Minority Language and Script Education Act, there are no open matters which are not being addressed.

The Ministry of Science, Education and Sports continuously improves the conditions and quality of education in national minority languages and scripts in the Republic of Croatia.

Minority languages and representation in education in national minority languages

The education of persons belonging to national minorities is performed in pre-school, primary, secondary and higher educational institutions with education in national minority languages and scripts in compliance with the criteria specified in the National Minority Language and Script Education Act and other legislation governing education.

The languages in which education is conducted may, according to the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages or the resolution confirming ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, be classified as either regional or minority languages or as non-regional minority languages.

Education is conducted in the following regional or minority languages: Italian, Serbian, Hungarian, Czech, Slovak, Ruthenian, and Ukrainian.

The territories where languages are used in various forms of education are:

- Istria County: Italian;
- Primorje-Gorski Kotar County: Italian and Serbian;
- Bjelovar-Bilogora County: Czech and Slovak;
- Osijek-Baranja County: Serbian, Hungarian, Ukrainian and Ruthenian;
- Vukovar-Srijem County: Serbian, Hungarian, Ukrainian, Ruthenian and Slovak;
- Lika-Senj County: Serbian.

Non-regional minority languages in regular or special forms of education are: Albanian, Hebrew, Macedonian, German, Romani, Russian, and Slovenian.

Models and forms of education in national minority languages and scripts

The education of national minorities in their languages and scripts is conducted according to special curricula and models, which, pursuant to the aforementioned Act, the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports confirms and also grants approvals for individual forms of education in cooperation with national minority representatives.

There are three models in the Croatian educational system according to which education is organized and performed in national minority languages, namely:

a) **Model A** – all instruction in national minority languages and scripts, or all instruction is conducted in the minority language and script with mandatory learning of the Croatian language in the same number of school hours as the minority language. This model is implemented in special educational institutions where all instruction is held in a national minority language or in special classrooms in Croatian-language institutions.

b) **Model B** – bilingual instruction, so that the natural sciences are taught in the Croatian language, while the social science curriculum is taught in a national minority

language. This model is implemented in special classrooms in Croatian-language educational institutions.

c) **Model C** – instruction on a minority language and culture (nurturing), so that along with regular instruction in Croatian, instruction is held in a national minority language in the national minority language and culture which is implemented in two to five school hours each week, encompassing instruction on the national minority language and literature, geography, history, music and arts.

Special forms of education (summer and winter schools, correspondent/consultative instruction, distance learning, and other) are primarily organized for pupils where there is no possibility of organizing regular instruction according to models A, B or C. The Ministry of Science, Education and Sports co-finances the organization and execution of special forms of education. There is also the possibility of learning a national minority language as a language of the local community.

The curriculum for regular instruction in models A, B and C is provided by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports after receiving opinions from minority associations pursuant to Article 6 of the National Minority Language and Script Education Act.

Persons belonging to national minorities suggest and select a model and curriculum pursuant to the currently existing law, and according to the interests of pupils and the available human resources.

Application of national minority language educational models and forms

Under Model A, primary and secondary education encompasses the Italian, Serbian, Hungarian, and Czech national minorities in primary schools.

Under Model B, the Czech, Hungarian and the Serbian national minorities are educated in primary schools and the Czech national minority in secondary schools.

Under Model C, primary school education encompasses the Albanian, Czech, Serbian, Slovak, Slovenian, Hungarian, Macedonian, German and Austrian, Ukrainian, Ruthenian, Russian, and Jewish national minorities, while secondary schools encompass the Czech, Russian, Slovak, Slovenian, Serbian, and Italian national minorities.

Special programmes for inclusion into the educational system have been designed for persons belonging to the Roma national minority.

The Italian national minority enjoys an educational form in which a minority language is learned as the language of the local community.

With the support of the relevant ministries in the 2012/2013 school year, special forms of education (summer and winter schools, correspondent/consultative instruction, etc.) encompassed persons belonging to the Czech, Hungarian, Macedonian, Roma, Ruthenian, Serbian, and Ukrainian national minorities.

Overview of education of children and pupils belonging to national minorities in the Republic of Croatia

In 2012 (2012/2013 school year), the entire educational vertical (from pre-school to higher education institutions) in national minority languages and scripts encompassed a total of **10,592 children/pupils** in 203 educational groups, 981 classes/groups and 1,356 pre-school/primary/secondary school teachers.

At the beginning of the 2012/2013 school year, all three models (A, B and C) of primary school education in national minority languages and scripts encompassed a total of 7,010 pupils in 147 primary schools, in 723 classes/educational groups with 795 teachers.

During the same period, Model A in primary schools encompassed 3,921 pupils in 35 primary schools, in 315 classes with 670 teachers belonging to national minorities. Secondary schools, according to Model A, had 1,516 pupils in 12 secondary schools in 148 classes with 394 teachers.

Model B was applied in three primary schools with 28 pupils (Czech, Hungarian and Serbian), and in one secondary school with 39 pupils (Czech national minority), in 14 classes with 10 teachers.

Model C in primary education encompassed 3,061 pupils in 109 primary schools, in 298 educational groups with 117 teachers. Secondary schools according to Model C had 174 pupils in eight secondary schools, in 20 educational groups, with 6 teachers. Instruction was organized for persons belonging to the Czech, Slovenian, Russian, Serbian, and the Italian national minorities.

The educational vertical (in pre-school, primary and secondary education institutions) at the beginning of 2012/2013 included 5,173 pupils belonging to the Roma national minority.

Czech national minority

- 147 children in pre-school, 3 kindergartens, 8 educational groups, 14 pre-school teachers
- 304 pupils, 3 primary schools, 18 classes, 49 teachers (Model A)
- 2 pupils, 1 primary school, 1 class, 1 teacher (Model B)
- 427 pupils, 16 primary schools, 57 educational groups, 15 teachers (Model C)
- Models A, B and C in primary schools included a total of 733 pupils
- 39 pupils in one secondary school, 4 classes, 2 teachers (Model B)
- 62 pupils in 4 secondary schools, 6 educational groups, 2 teachers (Model C)
- Models B and C in secondary schools included a total of 101 pupils
- A total of 981 children/pupils were included in the educational vertical

The Jednota publishing company supplies the needs of the Czech national minority. There is a Czech language and literature department at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb. Teachers are educated in the Czech Republic and Croatia.

Hungarian national minority

- 151 children in pre-school, in 7 kindergartens, 8 educational groups, 11 pre-school teachers
- 193 pupils, 4 primary schools, 30 classes, 59 teachers (Model A)
- 10 pupils in 1 primary school, 4 groups, 1 teacher (Model B)
- 884 pupils, 21 primary schools, 114 educational groups, 15 teachers (Model C)
- Models A, B and C in primary schools included a total of 1,087 pupils
- 51 pupils in one secondary school, in 10 classes, with 27 teachers (Model A)
- A total of 1,138 pupils in primary and secondary schools

At the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the Josip Juraj Strossmayer University in Osijek, the Hungarian language undergraduate programme has a total of 59 students, while the Hungarian language and literature graduate programme (with emphasis on teaching/communications) has 15 students.

Serbian national minority

- 438 children in pre-school, in 9 kindergartens, 18 groups, 34 pre-school teachers
- 1,922 pupils, 17 primary schools, 168 classes, 283 teachers (Model A)
- 16 pupils, 1 primary school, 5 classes, 6 teachers (Model B)

- 603 pupils, in 31 primary schools, 96 educational groups, 39 teachers (Model C)
- A total of 2,541 pupils in primary schools according to models A, B and C
- 896 pupils, 7 secondary schools, 78 classes, 210 teachers (Model A)
- 14 pupils, 1 secondary school, 4 classes, 1 teacher (Model C)
- A total of 910 pupils in secondary schools according to models A and C
- A total of 3,451 pupils in primary and secondary schools

The Prosvjeta Serbian Culture Society provides the needs of the Serbian national minority, while textbooks for the needs of education in the Serbian language and Cyrillic script are printed by the Prosvjeta publishing company in Zagreb.

Italian national minority

- 1,117 children in pre-school, 13 kindergartens, 52 educational groups, 99 pre-school teachers (Model A)
- 1,502 pupils, 11 primary schools, 99 classes, 279 teachers (Model A)
- 569 pupils, 4 secondary schools, 148 classes, 394 teachers (Model A)
- 28 pupils, 1 secondary school, 4 educational groups, 1 teacher (Model C)
- A total of 3,216 children/pupils in the educational vertical

At the Juraj Dobrila University in Pula, the pre-school education vocational study programme in the 2012/2013 academic year had a total of 364 students, while the integrated undergraduate and graduate university study programme for a teaching-oriented curriculum (in Croatian and Italian) had a total of 225 students. The Edit publishing company, which works for the needs of this national minority, prints newspapers, magazines and other publications in the Italian language, as well as textbooks for the needs of education in the Italian language and script and bilingual pedagogical documents.

Albanian national minority

- 176 pupils, in nine (9) primary schools, in 19 groups, 9 teachers (Model C)

Macedonian national minority

- 82 pupils, in six (6) primary schools, in 14 groups, 4 teachers (Model C)

German and Austrian national minority

- 63 pupils, in one (1) primary school, in 6 groups, 6 teachers (Model C)

Ruthenian national minority

- 82 pupils, in three (3) primary schools, in 12 groups, 4 teachers (Model C)

Russian national minority

- 88 pupils, in four (4) primary schools, in 8 groups, 4 teachers (Model C)
- 24 pupils, in one secondary school, in 2 groups, 1 teacher (Model C)

Slovak national minority

- 514 pupils, in twelve (12) primary schools, in 54 educational groups, with 9 teachers (Model C)

Teachers are educated in Slovakia and Croatia.

The 2012/2013 school year saw increased interest in learning the Slovak language and culture, so as of the 2013/2014 school year, education in two (2) secondary schools was approved (the secondary school in Ilok and the grammar school in Požega).

Slovenian national minority

- 41 pupils, in one (1) primary school, in 2 groups, 1 teacher (Model C)
- 46 pupils, in one secondary school, in 4 groups, 1 teacher (Model C)

The 2012/2013 school year saw increased interest in learning the Slovenian language and culture, so as of the 2013/2014 school year education in one (1) secondary school was approved (School of Applied Arts and Design in Pula).

Ukrainian national minority

- 52 pupils, in four (4) primary schools, in 8 groups, 4 teachers (Model C)

Jewish national minority

- 49 pupils, in one (1) primary school, in 8 groups, 7 teachers (Model C).

Roma national minority

During the past four years the integration of children belonging to the Roma national minority has increased in pre-school education, primary and secondary education.

Thus the entire educational vertical (from pre-school to higher education) in the 2012/2013 school year encompassed a total of 6,493 pupils belonging to the Roma national minority.

At the beginning of the 2012/2013 school year, pre-school education included 811 children belonging to the Roma national minority, 455 of whom in pre-school education, and 356 in primary school preparation programmes.

Primary school education at the beginning of the 2012/2013 school year, encompassed 5,173 pupils belonging to the Roma national minority. During the past four years the integration of children belonging to the Roma national minority in primary school education has increased significantly.

Due to the lack of proficiency in the Croatian language among children belonging to the Roma national minority/first grade primary school pupils in Međimurje County, the Ministry provided for the primary schools in Međimurje County to hire assistants/aids who are persons belonging to the Roma national minority and speak the language of local community. Since 2007 (2006/2007 school year) 23 assistants/aids are employed, which is

financed by the State budget. In 2012, HRK 1,463,191.23 from the central budget was used to finance the salaries of 23 assistants/Roma aids.

The Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, in agreement with Međimurje County, has provided for a primary school preparation programme for all Roma children in the year preceding their first school year, i.e. for children who started primary schools (first-graders) in the 2011/2012 school year. The children attended the primary school preparation programme from 15 September 2010 to 15 June 2011, five hours every day, with two meals and transportation provided. The stated programme continues from 15 September of the current year to 15 June of the following year.

The primary school preparation programme is essential for the Roma population of pre-school age, has sound results and indicates an obligation to organize pre-school education groups for all the Roma children as a preparation for integration in the educational system, especially in areas where there is no capacity for integrated pre-school education.

Together with allocations from the central budget, financing is provided by the EU through the IPA pre-accession assistance programme, as part of the “Integration of Disadvantaged Groups in Regular Education” project, for after-school care for all first and second grade pupils belonging to the Roma national minority in primary schools in Međimurje County.

The preceding period saw a significant increase in the number of secondary school pupils and secondary school scholarships.

In the 2008/2009 school year, 265 pupils had scholarships, while in the 2012/2013 school year 480 pupils had scholarships.

The conferred secondary school scholarships in 2011 amounted to HRK 1,598,820.00, while in 2012 they amounted to HRK 2,125,000.00. Accommodation in dormitories, additional activities, graduation trips, the work of a school supervisor, school fees and so forth were financed from the central budget in 2012 with an additional amount of HRK 124,343.33, which bring it to a total of HRK 2,249,343.33.

Higher education in the 2011/2012 school year included 29 students belonging to the Roma national minority who received scholarships from the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of HRK 290,000.00 allocated from the central budget.

Adult education, i.e.. as part of the Literacy Decade in Croatia/For Croatian Literacy 2003-2012 project, encompassed 311 persons belonging to the Roma national minority in 2012 in literacy and training programmes, which was financed with HRK 700,000.00 from the central budget.

In the interest of ensuring successful university study and increase the number of enrolled full-time students, the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports has been providing financial support to students/persons belonging to the Roma national minority (state scholarships in the amount of HRK 10,000.00 per year for both full-time and part-time students, co-financed accommodation in dormitories, co-financed meals in student cafeterias and co-financed public transportation for students).

Summer schools and other special forms of education in national minority languages

With the support of the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, national minority associations organize summer schools and other group activities every year for pupils belonging to national minorities.

In the past period special forms of education (summer/winter schools) included 2,820 pupils.

In the 2012/2013 school year, special forms of education (summer schools) were organized for the pupils of:

- the Macedonian national minority – summer school for 80 pupils;
- the Ukrainian national minority – summer school for 119 pupils;
- the Ruthenian national minority – summer school for 112 pupils;
- the Slovak national minority – 150 pupils (“*Slovenčina moja*” literary encounters) and field studies programme in the Slovak Republic for 35 pupils
- the Czech national minority – summer school for 47 pupils;
- the Hungarian national minority – summer school for 32 pupils;
- the Serbian national minority – summer school on the island of Pašman for 158 pupils.

Textbooks

Pursuant to Article 15 of the National Minority Language and Script Education Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 51/00 and 56/00), schools offering education in national minority languages and scripts use textbooks from mother countries primarily for learning a mother tongue (Czech, Hungarian, Serbian, and Italian languages, but also for other subjects), with the approval of the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports.

Pursuant to Article 16 of the National Minority Language and Script Education Act, the funds needed to co-finance the publication of textbooks for education in national minority languages and scripts are provided so that the price of textbooks is the same for the parents of children who are educated in national minority languages and scripts as the price of textbooks for the parents of children who are educated in Croatian.

In the past five years, an amount of HRK 9,909,967.71 was spent for the needs of textbooks in national minority languages and scripts (publication of original textbooks, translations of textbooks from Croatian to national minority languages, purchasing of translated textbooks as well as the additional printing of the translated textbooks).

National minority	Minority publisher	Amount in HRK 2009	Amount in HRK 2010	Amount in HRK 2011	Amount in HRK 2012	Amount in HRK 2013
Czech national minority	Jednota Daruvar	420,501.81	417,129.65	88,410.03	137,676.90	107,868.52
Hungarian national minority	Education and Culture Centre of Hungarians in Croatia, Osijek	362,729.35	361,096.54	*	148,766.39	-
Serbian national minority	Prosvjeta, Zagreb	1,343,790.00	1,712,907.00	1,947,267.41	497,914.00	895,797.00
Italian national minority	EDIT, Rijeka	686,674.98	728,863.21	914,322.56	828,594.26	-
TOTAL:		2,127,021.16	3,219,995.00	2,950,000.00	1,612,951.55	1,003,665.52

*In late 2011 the Education and Culture Centre of Hungarians reimbursed funding in an amount of HRK 176,552.62.

In 2010, the Ministry co-financed the translation of secondary school textbooks for the Italian and Serbian languages for the first time to facilitate the mandatory completion of the National School-Leaving Examination. Mathematics textbooks for grades 1 through 4 of grammar schools were translated, as mathematics is a mandatory subject in the National School-Leaving Examination.

Compared to 2011, the amount for additional printing/publication/import of textbooks for education in national minority languages and scripts in 2012 was HRK 1,337,048.45 less. The reason for this decrease is that in 2012 the priority was accorded to the completion of projects initiated and financed in preceding years. A transfer of the 2011 fund was approved to the newspaper-publishing company Edit in Rijeka in the amount of HRK 257,945.74.

No funding was approved in 2012 for initiating new projects. Furthermore, no textbooks were approved for which there were no curricula, although they had been partially financed in preceding years.

In the period from 2009 to 2013, the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports paid an amount of HRK 662,237.00 to the members of expert commissions for their participation in commission activities in assessing textbooks for the needs of education in national minority languages and scripts.

In the preceding period, 265 requests were received for the approval of textbooks and the accompanying additional teaching materials for the needs of education in national minority languages and scripts based on national minority and based on the origin of textbooks: 98 requests in the 2009/2010 school year, 15 of which for textbooks in the Czech language (3 original, 12 translated), 6 requests for textbooks in the Hungarian language (6 translated), 20 requests for textbooks in the Serbian language (4 original, 16 translated), 57 requests for textbooks in the Italian language (4 translated, 53 imported); 31 requests in the 2010/2011 school year, 9 of which for textbooks in the Czech language (1 original, 8 imported), 4 requests for textbooks in the Hungarian language (4 translated), 12 requests for textbooks in the Serbian language (12 original), 6 requests for textbooks in the Italian language (6 translated); 54 requests in the 2011/2012 school year, 11 of which for textbooks in the Czech language (2 original, 9 translated), 18 requests for textbooks in the Hungarian language (18 translated), 6 requests for textbooks in the Serbian language (6 original), 19 requests for textbooks in the Italian language (10 translated, 9 imported); 82 requests in the 2012/2013 school year, 12 of which for textbooks in the Czech language (2 original, 10 translated), 34 requests for textbooks in the Hungarian language (34 imported), 26 requests for textbooks in the Serbian language (16 original, 10 translated) and 10 requests for textbooks in the Italian language (10 translated).

Curricula

The curriculum for education in national minority languages and scripts, pursuant to the National Minority Language and Script Education Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 51/00) and the National Educational Standards (*Narodne novine*, no. 63/08 and 90/10) contains, in addition to a general section, a mandatory section pertaining to the specificities of national minorities (mother tongue, literature, history, geography, and cultural creativity of a national minority – music and arts).

The part of the curriculum related to the specificities of national minorities is stipulated and adopted by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports after obtaining the opinions of national minority associations.

The language and literature curricula for the Czech, Hungarian, Serbian, and the Italian national minorities were published in *Narodne novine*, no. 29/10 as follows:

- The Czech language curriculum for primary schools;
- The Czech language curriculum for secondary schools;
- The Hungarian language curriculum for primary schools;
- The Hungarian language curriculum for secondary schools;
- The Serbian language curriculum for primary schools;
- The Serbian language curriculum for secondary schools;

- The Italian language curriculum for primary schools;
- The Italian language and literature curriculum for secondary schools.

In the 2012/2013 school year, the Education and Teacher Training Agency became the competent authority for the design of the curricula for the needs of education in primary and secondary schools in national minority languages and scripts according to all models.

Teacher training

The training of pre-school, primary and secondary school teachers is provided by the Education and Teacher Training Agency.

In 2012, the Education and Teacher Training Agency organized 45 expert conferences for 2,247 teachers, namely: 8 conferences for 385 teachers in the Serbian language, 10 conferences for 371 teachers in the Italian language, 9 conferences for 251 teachers for education in the Czech language, 5 conferences for 165 teachers in the Hungarian language, 13 conferences for 1,075 teachers for the needs of the Roma national minority.

The Ministry co-finances the training of teachers who teach in national minority languages and scripts (the Czech and Slovak languages) in their mother countries.

Pre-school, primary and secondary school teachers who teach in educational institutions in national minority languages and scripts are organized in county/inter-county expert councils.

Pursuant to Article 13 of the National Minority Language and Script Education Act, and for the purpose of systematic supervision and proposing measures for the improvement of the quality of education, conditions are ensured for the work of 7 expert advisors/supervisors belonging to individual national minorities, out of which 2 advisors work full-time belonging to the Italian minority, 2 (1 full time and 1 part time) belonging to the Serbian minority and one advisor (part-time) belonging to Czech, Hungarian and the Slovak national minorities each.

Funding

In 2012, the Ministry provided funding for programmes and education in national minority languages and scripts (Activities 577131 – national minority education incentives, A 577137 – special education programmes for the implementation of national minority programmes and A 767003 – implementation of the National Programme for the Roma and A 767015 – pre-school education and primary school preparation programme incentives for the Roma).

ANNUAL REPORT	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Budgetary funding per activity	Amount in HRK	Amount in HRK	Amount in HRK	Amount in HRK	Amount in HRK
A 577131 – national minority education incentives	3,300,000.00	3,299,996.40	2,950,000.00	1,890,951.55	1,796,750.65
A 577137 – special education programmes for implementation of national minority programmes	1,369,721.13	1,448,530.88	1,841,878.17	1,124,208.87	966,931.57

A 767003 – implementation of National Programme for the Roma	1,575,950.00	2,650,000.00	2,325,502.69	1,828,560.00	3,215,025.14
A 767015 – pre-school education and primary school preparation programme incentives for the Roma	200,000.00	709,680.00	1,537,849.72	1,949,908.06	1,987,623.86
REF, Source 52 – A 767003 implementation of the National Programme for the Roma – “Higher Education Quality and Availability for the Roma in Croatia” project	597,441.50	1,374,719.26	2,000,000.00	-	-

A total amount of HRK 41,941,229.45 was spent for these activities from 2009 to 2013 for the purposes of education of persons belonging to national minorities.

The funding intended for national minorities according to the stated activities were allocated and spent for: *national minority education incentives* (prepress and publication of original textbooks primarily from the national group of subjects for primary and secondary schools, prepress for the publication of translated textbooks, the purchase of textbooks from mother countries for primary and secondary schools, the purchase of didactic materials for children and pupils), *special education programmes for the implementation of national minority programmes* (education of pre-school, primary and secondary school teachers at the national level in Croatia and in mother countries, summer and winter schools in Croatia and in mother countries, distance learning of mother tongues, *implementation of the National Programme for the Roma* (secondary school scholarships, summer and winter schools for pupils belonging to the Roma national minority, school trips, graduation trips), *pre-school education and primary school preparation for the Roma* (primary school preparation programme for children, whole-day or after-school care for pupils of the first four grades of primary schools, parental share in the price of accommodation of children in a pre-school institution, and the integrated programme of pre-school education and primary school preparation programme), the operation of pre-school institutions pursuant to *Article 50 of the Pre-school Education Act*, the printing of examination materials for the National School-Leaving Examination in national minority languages and scripts, translating of examination materials, language-editing, proof-reading, pre-press and printing, the expenses of the assessors in national minority mother tongues and travel expenses for translators and expert groups, salaries for teachers who teach in national minority languages and scripts in the Model C, salaries for 23 assistants-helpers and projects of associations in the area of non-institutional education.

Pursuant to Article 10 the National Minority Language and Script Education Act, classes in educational institutions are primarily delivered by teachers belonging to national minorities and by other teachers who are fully proficient in a minority language.

According to requests made by schools, the Ministry approves the employment of teachers and expert assistants for the needs of education in national minority languages and scripts (Model A, B or C) and provides for their salaries.

In 2012, the State budget provided for a total of HRK 20,195,745.35 for salaries for teachers of mother tongues for teaching mother tongues and culture (Model C), while from 2009 to 2012 a total amount of HRK 76,542,803.66 was spent for the same purpose.

External evaluation of education in national minority languages and scripts

The external evaluation of education is carried out by the National Centre for External Evaluation of Education (NCVVO). Students educated in national minority languages and scripts were included both in external evaluation and in national examinations as well as the preparations for the National School-Leaving Examination. Catalogues and examination questions were prepared for the Czech, Hungarian, Serbian and Italian languages at the secondary school level. Examination questions were translated into languages and scripts of national minorities (Czech, Hungarian, Serbian and the Italian languages), as well as a guide for primary schools.

A total cost of the activities (translation of examinations, examination catalogues, instructions, schedules, translations of guides to national minority languages, proof-reading and prepress of the translated exams, language-editing of the exams and other) which were performed by the National Centre for External Evaluation of Education for the needs of education of national minorities during 2012 came to a gross amount of HRK 1,427,685.56.

With reference to Article 15 of the Framework Convention

From the Report of the Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities

Particular attention has been accorded to the participation of persons belonging to national minorities in cultural, social and economic life and public affairs. Year after year, cultural activities financed from the central budget – both through the Council for National Minorities on state level and through the Ministry of Culture – have intensified for all projects of universal interest to the entire country. This has simultaneously contributed to the popularization of both minority culture and Croatia as a multicultural society. With regard to implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities, special attention has been dedicated to the representation of persons belonging to national minorities in the representative bodies of local and regional governments. However, with regards to the representation of national minorities in the civil service, pursuant to the Croatian Government's Decision to halt new recruitment to civil service and public posts, professional services and offices made in December 2009, the number of new recruits to the civil service has decreased in the past period, which resulted in a lower number of new recruits among national minorities as well.

Organization of seminars on implementation Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities

Through all the seminars organized by the Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities, the Council for National Minorities on state level and the Ministry of Public Administration, dedicated to the reinforcing the role and promotion of the work of national minority councils and representatives, persons belonging to national minorities were informed of the implementation of the Constitutional Act as a whole, and especially with the areas where there are difficulties.

Persons belonging to national minorities stressed that the media still covered minority issues with a great deal of sensationalism, which could not contribute to the creation of a positive image and the resolution of existing problems.

Persons belonging to national minorities commended the existing training of national minority councils and the representatives as well as local and regional governments, organized by the Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities, the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Council for National Minorities on state level, and proposed that such training efforts should be continued in the forthcoming period as well, with a view to more effective participation of national minorities in public life.

Funding civic trust-building in areas of special state concern

Joint Council of Municipalities, Vukovar

For the purpose of civic trust-building through dialogue through the institutions of the system, the Office, via the Croatian central budget, provided funding in an amount of HRK 4,500,000 for the work of Vukovar's Joint Council of Municipalities, an association of the Serbian national minority which harmonises the interests of the Serbian national minority in the territory of Vukovar-Srijem and Osijek-Baranja Counties.

Serbian National Council – national coordinating body of the Serbian community councils in the Republic of Croatia, Zagreb

The Serbian National Council – the national coordinating body of Serbian community councils in the Republic of Croatia, Zagreb, is an association of the Serbian national minority which, with the aim of protecting and promoting their national, cultural, linguistic and religious identity, coordinates and aligns the interests of the Serbian national minority in the territory of the Republic of Croatia. The Council is rooted in the values of democracy, civil society, tolerance and multiculturalism. Furthermore, one of the Council's goals is the creation of conditions needed for the work of the currently existing organizations and the establishment of new organizations and institutions of interest to the Serbs in the territory of the Republic of Croatia. In the past reporting period, funding in the amount of HRK 7,500,000 was provided through the Serbian National Council's operations office.

Roma National Council, Zagreb

The Roma National Council in Zagreb is an association of the Roma national minority which operates in the territory of the Republic of Croatia and represents the interests of the Roma national minority. The aims of the association include the affirmation and integration of the Roma national minority into Croatian society. Furthermore, the association engages in activities aiming to support the constitution, operation, liaisons and exchanges of experiences

with the organizations and institutions of national minorities in the Republic of Croatia, as well as advocating and offering partnerships to all local, regional, national and international initiatives the activities of which are related to those of the Council. In the past reporting period funding in the amount of HRK 1,500,000.00 was provided for through the Roma National Council's operations office.

Union of Hungarian Associations, Beli Manastir

The Union of Hungarian Associations in Beli Manastir is an association of the Hungarian national minority which represents the interests of the Hungarian national minority in the Republic of Croatia. Through numerous culture clubs, organizations and associations it implements informative programmes, publishing, amateur cultural and cultural events as well as programmes under a bilateral agreement between Croatia and Hungary aimed at nurturing and developing the cultural, national and religious identity of the Hungarian national minority in the Republic of Croatia. In the past reporting period, through the operations office of the Union of Hungarian Associations funding was provided in an amount of HRK 1,200,000.00.

Representation of persons belonging to national minorities in the Croatian Parliament

From the Report of the Ministry of Public Administration

In elections for the Croatian Parliament held on 4 December 2011, the corresponding representation of deputies from among the persons belonging to national minorities was achieved, elected in a separate, twelfth constituency. Namely, in the special electorate, pursuant to the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities and Croatian Parliamentary Elections Act, eight representatives were elected from among the ranks of national minorities.

The members of Parliament from among the ranks of national minorities were elected pursuant to regulations that were in force prior to enactment of the Amendments to the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities of June 2010. These amendments to the Constitutional Act, specifically to Article 19 of the Constitutional Act, stipulates that those national minorities who account for more than 1.5% of Croatia's population on the date of entry into force of the Constitutional Act are guaranteed a minimum of three representatives in the Croatian Parliament on the basis of the general suffrage, while national minorities who account for less than 1.5% of Croatia's population are entitled to elect five representatives belonging to national minorities in special constituencies based on general suffrage and additional special voting rights.

The Decision of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Croatia of 29 July 2011 repealed the amended provision of Article 19 of the Constitutional Act and it ordered application of the rules contained in Article 19 of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities which had been effective prior to entry into force of the Amendments thereto, until the matters contained in the repealed provisions are regulated.

Representation of persons belonging to national minorities in local and regional representative and executive bodies

From the Report the Ministry of Public Administration

Pursuant to Article 20 of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities, persons belonging to national minorities are guaranteed the right to representation in the representative bodies of local and regional governments, namely, municipalities, towns and counties.

Article 21 of the Constitutional Act stipulates that local and regional governmental units in which persons belonging to national minorities do not form a majority of the population may, by means of their charters, stipulate that persons belonging to national minorities may be elected to a representative body of a local or regional government, or a number of persons higher than that which arises from their share in the total population of said unit.

In late 2012, the new Local Elections Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 144/12) was enacted, regulating the election of the members of local and regional representative bodies and the election of municipal chief officials, mayors and county prefects and their deputies.

The new Local Elections Act contained amendments on the matter of determining the representation of national minority representatives in a unit's representative body, replacement of members of a representative body belonging to a national minority and the determination of representation of national minorities in an executive body. The Act regulates in detail the manner of ascertaining representation of national minorities in elections to a representative body, following which by-elections for national minority representatives are an exemption in cases when none of the methods specified by law results in suitable national minority representation in a representative body.

Article 103 of the Act stipulates that representation of national minorities in local and regional representative bodies is determined pursuant to the provisions of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities, while determination of the number of persons belonging to a national minority in a given unit's representative body is based on the official census results.

Article 104 further stipulates that the number of members of a representative body from among the persons belonging to a specific national minority is determined by multiplying the share of individual national minorities in the total population of the unit with the number of members of a representative body of the unit, and the result so obtained is rounded to nearest whole number. Insofar as a minority that accounts at least 5% of the total population of a unit does not achieve the proper representation in a representative body as stated above, such minority has the right to one member of a representative body, and prior to each local election the central state bodies authorised for general administrative affairs shall post on their web sites data on the number of members of a unit's representative body who are elected from among the persons belonging to a specific national minority.

Article 105 stipulates that, together with the representation specified in Article 103, persons belonging to national minorities also exercise the right to representation in a representative body in those units where, regardless of the share of persons belonging to national minorities in the total population, the right to representation of persons belonging to national minorities in a representative body is stipulated by the charter of said unit.

Article 110 of the Act stipulates that representation of national minorities in a representative body of a unit shall be deemed ensured throughout the entire term of office of the representative body if it is ensured at the moment when the final results of the election are released (regular and by-elections).

The stated provisions of the Act indicate that the right of national minorities to representation in representative bodies has been expanded compared to previous legislation and the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities. A vital novelty in the Act is also Article 104, whereby a minority that accounts for less than 5% of the total population of a unit is entitled to one representative in a representative body, while the simple determination of the number of members from among the ranks of a specific national minority in the manner stipulated by this provision ensures a broader right to representation in a representative body than stipulated by the provisions of the Constitutional Act.

In the previous reporting period, the election of the members to local and regional representative bodies and of municipal chief officials, mayors and deputy county prefects were held in May 2009 and May 2013.

Following the regular and by-elections in 2009, the proper representation of persons belonging to national minorities was fully secured in all the local and regional governmental units in which national minorities are entitled to representation in representative and executive bodies.

The total number of persons belonging to national minorities who were elected members of local and regional representative bodies in the elections held in May 2009 was 584, 447 of whom were Serbs, 8 were Bosniaks, 17 Czech, 34 Hungarians, 5 Slovaks, 5 Ruthenians, 1 Ukrainian, 1 Albanian, 3 Roma and 63 Italians.

The term of office of elected members of representative bodies (including elected national minority representatives) ended on 15 April 2013, or on the date of publication of the Croatian Government's decision to announce elections for members of local and regional representative bodies (*Narodne novine*, no. 44/13), which were held on 19 May 2013.

On the basis of the new Local Elections Act, the Ministry of Public Administration, prior to regular local elections in May 2013, provided the National Elections Commission with a table showing the number of members of representative bodies from among persons belonging to national minorities and from among persons of Croatian ethnicity – for those units in which persons belonging to national minorities, or persons of Croatian ethnicity exercise the right to representation in a representative body. The tables were posted on the website of the National Elections Commission prior to the regular local elections in May.

Pursuant to the Act and in line with local charters, persons belonging to national minorities were entitled to elect a total of 309 members to representative bodies in a total of 154 local and regional governmental units. Broken down by individual minority, persons belonging to the Serbian minority were entitled to elect a total of 203 members to local and regional representative bodies; persons belonging to the Italian minority 38 members; persons belonging to the Hungarian minority 18; persons belonging to the Bosniak and Roma minorities 13 each; persons belonging to the Czech minority 12; persons belonging to the Slovak minority 7; persons belonging to the Ruthenian minority 3; and the persons belonging to the Albanian and Ukrainian minorities one member each.

In the regular elections held on 19 May 2013, a total of 305 members were elected to representative bodies as stipulated by law and charters in a total of 150 self-government units.

The right to elect one member to each of the representative bodies in the municipalities of Kotoriba, Podturen, Peteranec and Petrijanec was not exercised only by persons belonging to the Roma national minority, so the Croatian Government made a decision on 1 August 2013, pursuant to Article 107 (8), to announce by-elections for members of municipal councils in Kotoriba, Podturen, Peteranec and Petrijanec from among the ranks of the Roma national minority. The elections were scheduled for on Sunday, 22 September 2013. Only a member of the Roma national minority was elected in the by-elections in the Municipality of Podturen, while additional elections in the municipalities of Kotoriba,

Peteranec and Petrijanec were not held because the relevant committees had not received a single candidate slate.

The term of office of the elected members of representative bodies (and the elected representatives of national minorities) ends on the date of publication of the decision of the Government of the Republic of Croatia to announce elections of members to local and regional representative bodies, which will be held in May 2017.

Article 22 (1) of the Constitutional Act stipulates that the representatives of national minorities are entitled to representation in a local or regional executive body if they achieve proportional representation in the corresponding representative body, while paragraph (3) stipulates that representation of national minority representatives in local and regional administrative bodies is ensured pursuant to the provisions of a special law that regulates local and regional governments and in compliance with established rights. Pursuant to the Constitutional Act, persons belonging to national minorities in the municipalities and towns in which they account for over 15% of the population, as well as in those counties in which they account for over 5% (criteria stipulating the right of representation in local representative bodies), were entitled to representation in executive arms of local governments of those units. Since enactment of the Constitutional Act, persons belonging to national minorities, pursuant to the specified criteria, achieved representation in executive arms of local governments. Under the amendments to the Local and Regional Government Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 109/07), the executive bodies ceased to exist, and their functions in local governments were assumed by the municipal chief official in a municipality, a mayor in a town, or a prefect in a county.

The stated Act entered into force on the same date as the decision on announcing the first forthcoming general and regular elections of members to municipal and city councils, county assemblies and the assembly of the City of Zagreb, as well as municipal chief officials, mayors, county prefects and the mayor of Zagreb, while the existing municipal, city and county governments continued functioning until the beginning of service of municipal chief officials, mayors and county prefects elected directly in the elections held on 19 May 2009.

Article 41a of the Local and Regional Government Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 33/01, 60/01, 129/05, 109/07, 125/08, 36/09, 150/11, 144/12, and 19/13 – consolidated text), stipulates that in units in which the right to representation of persons belonging to a national minority in an executive body is exercised pursuant to the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities, one municipal chief official, mayor, or deputy prefect will be elected from among the ranks of national minorities in the manner stipulated by the law governing elections to an executive body. In units in which persons belonging to one of the national minorities account for a majority of the population, persons of Croatian ethnicity are entitled to representation in an executive body under the conditions specified for national minorities. In units in which a municipal chief official, mayor, or deputy county prefect is elected from among the ranks of national minorities or the Croatian people, the number of deputies is increased by one.

In accordance with Articles 41a (4) and (5) of the same Act, in local and regional governmental units in which a municipal chief official, mayor, or deputy county prefect is elected from among the persons belonging to national minorities pursuant to the law governing elections to an executive body, the number of deputies is increased by one, provided that in the local and regional governmental units in which more than one national minority exercises the right to municipal chief official, mayor, or deputy county prefects, a deputy is elected from among the persons belonging to each of those national minorities, in which case the number of deputies is increased by one deputy belonging to each of those national minorities that exercise the right to a deputy.

Furthermore, persons belonging to national minorities also exercise the right to representation in an executive body in those units where, regardless of the share of persons belonging to national minorities in the total population of the unit, the right to representation of persons belonging to national minorities in an executive body is stipulated by the given unit's charter.

The election of a municipal chief official, mayor, or deputy county prefect belonging to national minorities is regulated by Article 112(1) of the new Local Elections Act, which Article stipulates that a municipal chief official, mayor, or deputy county prefect from among the persons belonging to national minorities is elected directly in elections held by secret ballot with a four-year term of office, at the same time, in the same manner and under the same procedure that applies for a municipal chief official, mayor, or county prefect. A deputy so elected is a representative of a national minority, and there is no need to hold by-elections.

Representation in an executive body of a local and regional governmental unit in the elections held in 2009 was exercised in a total of 84 units. Two mayors, 19 deputy mayors, 8 municipal chief officials and 47 deputy municipal chiefs were elected from among the persons belonging to national minorities, as well as 8 deputy county prefects, 51 of whom were Serbs, 2 Bosniaks, 2 Czechs, 6 Hungarians, 1 German, 2 Ruthenians and 20 Italians.

In the 2013 local elections, persons belonging to national minorities, pursuant to the Act and their charters, were entitled to nominate and elect candidates for a total of 61 municipal chief officials, mayors, or deputy county prefects, in a total of 60 local and regional governmental units, or in exactly 49 municipalities and towns as well as in 11 counties. Broken down by minority, persons belonging to the Serbian minority had the right to nominate candidates and elect 39 deputies; persons belonging to the Italian minority 7 deputies; persons belonging to the Czech and Hungarian minorities 4 deputies each; persons belonging to the Bosniak, Roma and Ruthenian minorities 2 deputies each; and persons belonging to the Slovak minority one deputy, or a representative in an executive body of a municipality, town or county.

In the elections, a total of 49 municipal chief officials and deputy mayors were elected as well as 12 deputy county prefects from among persons belonging to national minorities, by which the right in question to representation in executive bodies was achieved in total.

In the regular elections held in May 2013, municipal chief officials, mayors, or deputy county prefects were elected from among the persons belonging to national minorities and the required representation of persons belonging to national minorities in all the local and regional governmental units in which persons belonging to national minorities had this right by law was achieved. By-elections were not needed.

According to the data on elected municipal chiefs, mayors and deputy county prefects following the 2013 elections, 61 representatives of persons belonging to national minorities were elected, as follows: 39 Serbs, 7 Italians, 4 Hungarians, 4 Czech, 1 Slovak, 2 Bosniaks, 2 Roma and 2 Ruthenians.

As for ensuring representation of national minorities in an executive body, the Local Elections Act stipulates that in the units which, in line with effective regulations, they exercise the right to a municipal chief official, mayor, or deputy county prefect from among the persons belonging to national minorities, the deputy is elected directly in elections, at the same time, in the same manner and according to the same procedure that apply for a municipal chief official, mayor, or a county prefect. A deputy so elected is a representative of a national minority, and there is no need for holding by-elections.

Following the solutions contained in the new Act related to ensuring the representation of the representatives of national minorities in local or regional representative and executive bodies, the number of by-elections shall decrease considerably, which will result in a considerable decrease in the cost of holding elections.

Representation of persons belonging to national minorities in the civil service

From the Report the Ministry of Public Administration

Persons belonging to national minorities are ensured representation in the civil service and judicial bodies pursuant to the provisions of a special law, taking into account that the share of persons belonging to national minorities in the total population is at the level at which a civil service or judicial body is organized and the established rights (Article 22 (2) of the Constitutional Act). Article 22 (4) of the Constitutional Act stipulates that preference in the filling of vacancies in these bodies shall be accorded under equal conditions to the representatives of national minorities.

Regarding the employment of persons belonging to national minorities in the civil service pursuant to the provision of Article 22 (2) of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities (*Narodne novine*, no. 155/02, 47/10, 80/10, and 93/11), or the invocation of the right of priority under equal conditions, the Ministry of Public Administration monitored the announcements of vacancies during 2012 and it was observed that announcements of vacancies contained the text stating that persons belonging to national minorities are entitled to invoke priority upon employment on the basis of Article 22 of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities, without the obligation to provide proof of national identity.

All texts of vacancy announcements instruct and inform the candidates belonging to national minorities (by e-mail responses, telephone, or information available on the web pages of the Ministry of Public Administration) that they have the right to invoke priority at employment pursuant to the provision of Article 22 (2) of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities (*Narodne novine*, no. 155/02, 47/10, 80/10, and 93/11), without the obligation of providing proof of national identity.

On 9 May 2011 the Employment Plan of persons belonging to national minorities in the civil service was adopted for the period from 2011 to 2014 (long-term). The Employment Plan was published in *Narodne novine*, no. 65/11.

The purpose of the Plan is to determine the real possibility of increasing the number of persons belonging to national minorities in the civil service in the period from 2011 to 2014, aiming to achieve their 5.5% representation in the total number of employees in the civil service. Civil service employment plans for the 2011-2014 calendar years (short-term plans) will be adopted in accordance with this Plan. Taking into account of the limited possibility of employing new civil servants, including national minorities, and the need to decrease the number of public employees, as well as the available finances for new recruits, in the period from 2011 to 2014 employment of a total of 802 persons belonging to national minorities in the civil service is planned, 727 of whom in national bodies and 75 in municipalities.

According to the records of the Ministry of Public Administration, on 31 December 2012, there was a total of 51,864 civil servants and governmental employees in public bodies, staff services and the offices of the Croatian Government, 1,752, or 3.378% of whom were persons belonging to national minorities.

The total data at the level of 2012 show that a total number of newly employed on the basis of vacancy announcements in all bodies was 906, 29 of which were persons belonging to national minorities, which amount to 3.2%.

For the sake of comparison, on 31 December 2013 there was a total of 52,691 civil servants and governmental employees in public bodies and staff services and the offices of the Croatian Government, 1,853 or 3.51% of whom were persons belonging to national minorities. Although the aim of 5.5% representation of persons belonging to national

minorities was not achieved, the total number of persons employed in 2013 on the basis of announced vacancies (624), includes 37 persons belonging to national minorities, or 5.92% in the total number of new hires.

Furthermore, pursuant to the Public Sector Staff Register Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 34/11) in 2011 and 2012, the Public Sector Staff Register was established, facilitating higher quality data management on employees in the civil service, including persons belonging to national minorities, with the aim of monitoring of the exercise of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. The Central Payroll System (COP) was established and, for the time being, it only operates for national bodies.

The data for the year 2013 were for the first time obtained through new data processing by matching the voter roll that contains data on the nationality of voters with the register of civil service employees which is maintained pursuant to the Public Sector Staff Register Act.

Also, the Decision to Halt New Recruitment of Civil Servants and Public Employees in State Bodies, Staff Services and Offices of the Croatian Government (*Narodne novine*, no. 153/09) is still in force, which was adopted by the Croatian Government on 17 December 2009, by which new recruitment of civil servants and public employees has been halted. Exceptionally, employment is permitted for job positions that become vacant due to the end of service by a civil servant or employee, provided that regular operations cannot be ensured by reallocation among the current civil servants and employees. Furthermore, the stated halt on employment was made stricter with the application of the 2 for 1 clause (for each two who depart, only one is hired).

Representation of persons belonging to national minorities in judicial bodies

From the Report of the Ministry of Justice

For the purpose of determining representation of persons belonging to national minorities in judicial bodies, in December 2010 the Ministry of Justice conducted an analysis of the representation of persons belonging to national minorities in judicial bodies (per municipality) in relation to total representation of national minorities in the population, which served as the basis for target guidance of further activities to the areas where the largest derogations were identified.

Subsequently, in October 2010 the Ministry of Justice organized a round table in Osijek on the recruitment of persons belonging to national minorities in judicial bodies. During 2011, the Ministry of Justice organized two round tables on the application of Article 22 of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities in the procedure for recruiting civil servants and employees in judicial bodies. On 15 April 2011, a round table was held in Vukovar, and on 30 June 2011 another was held in Gospić for the purpose of informing persons belonging to national minorities in the areas of Vukovar-Srijem, and Lika-Senj Counties of the possibility of exercising their right to invoke priority in employment under equal conditions. The round table was attended by the representatives of the Ministry of Justice, the Office for National Minorities, Public Prosecution Council, the Ministry of Public Administration, the county courts in Vukovar and Karlovac (Permanent Service in Gospić), representatives of county and municipal public prosecutor's offices, representatives of municipal and misdemeanour courts, national minority councils and representatives from Vukovar-Srijem and Lika-Senj Counties respectively.

The aims of the round tables were to: encourage persons belonging to national minorities to invoke their right of priority in employment when applying for vacancies or submitting a vacancy announcement; inform persons participating in the selection of

candidates that, during selection, they consider the right of priority of employment of persons belonging to national minorities under equal conditions; encourage general awareness-raising of citizens of the Republic of Croatia of the need and necessity for protection of minority rights.

Furthermore, during 2010 the Ministry of Justice launched the project of printing posters aimed at distributing and providing information to persons belonging to national minorities of their right of priority when submitting applications for employment under equal conditions pursuant to Article 22 of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities. In November 2012, the Ministry of Justice distributed posters providing information to persons belonging to national minorities of their right of priority in employment in all judicial bodies in the Republic of Croatia.

At the same time, the Ministry of Justice also maintains statistics on representation of persons belonging to national minorities in judicial bodies (courts and public prosecutor's offices). Furthermore, the Ministry of Justice also maintains statistics on representation of civil servants and employees in judicial bodies who are persons belonging to national minorities.

The statistics on the number of persons belonging to national minorities employed in courts and public prosecutor's offices for 2010 show that in February 2010 there was a total of 10,518 persons employed in courts and public prosecutor's offices, 387 of whom were persons belonging to national minorities (76 of whom were judges belonging to national minorities, 34 public prosecutors belonging to national minorities and 277 civil servants and employees belonging to national minorities). On 30 July 2010, there was a total of 10,532 persons employed in the courts and public prosecutor's offices, 369 of whom were persons belonging to national minorities (75 of whom were judges belonging to national minorities, 20 public prosecutors belonging to national minorities and 274 civil servants and employees belonging to national minorities). On 31 December 2010 a total of 10,482 persons were employed in courts and public prosecutor's offices, 366 of whom were persons belonging to national minorities (75 of whom were judges belonging to national minorities, 21 public prosecutors belonging to national minorities and 270 civil servants and employees belonging to national minorities).

On 31 January 2012 there was a total of 867 judges employed in municipal courts, 833 of whom were Croats (96.1%), 18 Serbs (2.1%), 2 Italians (0.2%), 2 Montenegrins (0.2%), 4 Yugoslavs (0.5%), 2 Bosniaks (0.2%), 1 Jew (0.1%) and 5 ethnically uncommitted (0.6%). Out of a total of 404 judges in county courts, 383 were Croats (94.8%), 10 Serbs (2.5%), 1 Montenegrin (0.2%), 6 Yugoslavs (1.5%), 2 Bosniaks (0.5%), and 2 ethnically uncommitted (0.5%). In commercial courts, out of a total of 124 judges, not a single one of them declared him- or herself as a person belonging to a national minority, and the same applied to the administrative courts, where there were 21 judges were employed. In misdemeanour courts, out of a total of 380 judges, 366 were Croats, 8 Serbs, 1 Hungarian, 1 Bosniak, 1 Macedonian, 1 Slovenian, 1 Czech and 1 ethnically uncommitted. In the High Misdemeanour Court, there was a total of 45 employed judges, 43 of whom were Croats, 1 Bosniak and 1 Jew. In the Supreme Court there was a total of 43 employed judges, 39 Croats, 1 Serb, 1 Yugoslav, 1 Ruthenian, 1 ethnically uncommitted. In the High Administrative Court, out of a total of 33 judges 100% were Croats, as in the High Commercial Court, where there was a total of 31 judges.

Out of the total number of judges in all courts in the Republic of Croatia (1,948 judges), there were 1,873 Croats (96.1%) and 75 persons belonging to national minorities (3.9%).

In the public prosecutor's offices on 31 January 2012, there was a total of 621 employees, 601 of whom were Croats (96.8%), while 20 were persons belonging to national

minorities (3.2%). In municipal public prosecutor's offices, out of 433 employees, there were 413 Croats (97.6%), 6 Serbs (1.4%), 1 Italian (0.2%), 1 Montenegrin (0.2%), 1 Ruthenian (0.2%), 1 Czech (0.2%). In county public prosecutor's offices, there was a total of 172 employees, 162 of which were Croats (94.2%), 8 Serbs (4.9%), 1 Montenegrin (0.6%) and 1 Slovak (0.6%), while in the Public Prosecution of the Republic of Croatia there was a total of 26 employed Croats (100%).

Total number of judges and state attorneys: there was a total of 2,569 employees, 2,474 of whom were Croats (96.3%), and 95 persons belonging to national minorities (3.7%).

Civil servants and employees in courts and public prosecutor's offices on 31 January 2012

On 31 January 2012, in municipal courts, out of a total of 4,367 systemised posts, 4,248 were filled (3,767 of which were civil servants and employees, 379 court advisors and 102 interns); 4,067 Croats, 108 Serbs, 2 Montenegrins, 11 Bosniaks, 10 Czech, 3 Slovenians, 8 Macedonians, 11 ethnically uncommitted, 4 Hungarians, 18 Italians, 5 Yugoslavs, 1 Albanian and 2 Ruthenians.

In county courts on 31 January 2012, out of a total of 1,117 systemised job positions, 901 posts were filled (765 of whom were civil servants and employees, 111 court advisors and 25 interns); 859 Croats, 34 Serbs, 1 Montenegrin, 2 Bosniaks, 1 Czech, 2 Slovenians, 1 Macedonian and 1 Ruthenian.

In commercial courts on 31 January 2012, out of a total of 312 systemised posts, 595 posts were filled, (527 of whom were civil servants and employees, 63 court advisors and 5 interns); 583 Croats, 7 Serbs, 1 Montenegrin, 1 Bosniak, 1 ethnically uncommitted and 2 Hungarians.

In the Supreme Court of the Republic of Croatia on 31 January 2012 there was a total of 80 systemised posts, 67 of which were filled (52 of whom were civil servants and employees, 15 court advisors); 66 Croats and 1 Serb.

In the High Administrative Court there were 96 systemised posts, 71 of which were filled (53 of whom were civil servants and employees, 18 court advisors); 71 Croats.

In the High Commercial Court, there were 56 systemised posts, 49 of which were filled (29 of whom were civil servants and employees, 20 court advisors); 48 Croats and 1 Bosniak.

In misdemeanour courts there were 1,465 systemised posts, 1,112 of which were filled (1,032 of whom were civil servants and employees, 57 court advisors and 23 interns); 1,112 Croats.

In the High Misdemeanour Court there were 65 systemised posts, 53 of which were filled (37 of whom were civil servants and employees, 17 court advisors); 53 Croats.

The total number of civil servants and employees in courts and public prosecutor's offices on 31 January 2012; 7,988 systemised posts, 7,096 filled (6,262 of whom were civil servants and employees, 679 court advisors and 155 interns); 6,859 Croats, 150 Serbs, 4 Montenegrins, 15 Bosniaks, 11 Czech, 5 Slovenians, 9 Macedonians, 12 ethnically uncommitted, 6 Hungarians, 18 Italians, 5 Yugoslavs, 1 Albanian and 3 Ruthenians.

Statistics on the number of public legal officials at courts on 31 December 2012

In municipal courts there was a total of 854 employees, 829 of whom were Croats (97.1%), 18 Serbs (2.1%), 2 Italians (0.2%), 2 Bosniaks (0.2%), 1 Hungarian (0.1%) and 2 others (0.2%).

In county courts there was a total of 408 employees, 389 of whom were Croats (95.3%), 14 Serbs (3.4%), 2 Bosniaks (0.5%) and 3 others (0.74%).

In commercial courts there was a total of 131 employed Croats (100%), and in administrative courts 34 employed Croats (100%).

In misdemeanour courts, out of a total of 377 employees, 361 were Croats (95.7%), 10 Serbs (2.65%), 2 Bosniaks (0.5%), 1 Hungarian (0.3%), 1 Czech (0.3%) and 2 others (0.5%).

In the High Administrative Court, the Supreme Court of the Republic of Croatia, the High Commercial Court and the High Misdemeanour Court there was a total of 143 employees, 140 of whom were Croats (97.9%), 1 Serb (0.7%) and 2 others (1.4%).

There was a total of 1,947 public legal officials employed in the courts, 1,884 of whom were Croats (96.8%), and 63 were persons belonging to national minorities (3.2%).

Statistics on the number of public legal officials in public prosecutor's offices on 31 December 2012

In municipal public prosecutor's offices there was a total of 413 employees, 399 of whom were Croats (96.6%), 7 Serbs (1.7%), 1 Italian (0.2%), 1 Hungarian (0.2%), 1 Czech (0.2%) and 4 others (1.2%).

In county public prosecutor's offices there was a total of 153 employees, 141 of whom were Croats (92.2%), 9 Serbs (5.9%), 1 Italian (0.6%), 1 Slovenian (0.6%) and 1 other (0.6%).

In the Public Prosecution of the Republic of Croatia, there was a total of 21 employees, 20 of whom were Croats (95.3%) and 1 Bosniak (4.7%).

In the Anti-Corruption and Organized Crime Office, there was a total of 27 employees, 26 of whom were Croats (96.3%) and 1 Serb (3.7%).

In public prosecutor's offices there was a total of 614 employed public legal officials, 586 of whom were Croats (95.4%), and 28 persons belonging to national minorities (4.6%).

The total number of judges and public prosecutors on 31 December 2012: there was a total of 2,561 employees, 2,470 of which were Croats (96.4%), and 91 persons belonging to national minorities (3.6%).

Statistics on civil servants, employees and interns in the courts on 31 December 2012

In municipal courts there was a total of 4,225 employees, 4,073 of whom were Croats, 86 Serbs, 16 Bosniaks, 12 Italians, 10 Czech, 1 Slovenian, 6 Hungarians, 2 Albanians and 19 others.

In county courts there was a total of 841 employees, 814 of whom were Croats, 22 Serbs, 1 Czech and 4 others.

In commercial courts there was a total of 542 employees, 532 of whom were Croats, 6 Serbs, 1 Bosniak, 2 Hungarians and 1 other.

In misdemeanour courts there was a total of 1120 employees, 1,086 of whom were Croats, 16 Serbs, 2 Bosniaks, 2 Italians, 3 Hungarians, 7 Czech and 4 others.

In administrative courts there were 47 Croats and 1 Czech.

In the High Administrative Court, the Supreme Court of the Republic of Croatia, the High Commercial Court and the High Misdemeanour Court there was a total of 250 employees, 249 of whom were Croats and 1 Serb.

Statistics on civil servants, employees and interns in the public prosecutor's offices on 31 December 2012

In municipal public prosecutor's offices there was a total of 761 employees, 737 of whom were Croats (96.8%), 15 Serbs (1.9%), 2 Bosniaks (0.3%), 3 Italians (0.4%), 1 Albanian (0.1%) and 3 others (0.4%).

In county public prosecutor's offices there was a total of 268 employees, 251 of whom were Croats (93.6%), 11 Serbs (4.1%), 1 Bosniak (0.4%), 1 Italian (0.4%), 1 Slovenian (0.4%), 1 Czech (0.4%) and 2 others (0.7%).

In the Public Prosecution of the Republic of Croatia there was a total of 44 employees, 42 of whom were Croats (95.5%) and 2 Serbs (4.5%).

In the Anti-Corruption and Organized Crime Office there was a total of 25 employees, 24 of whom were Croats (96%) and 1 other (4%).

In the public prosecutor's offices there were 1,098 civil servants, governmental employees and interns, 1,054 of whom were Croats (96%), and 44 were persons belonging to national minorities (4%).

The total number of civil servants, employees and interns in the courts and public prosecutor's offices on 31 December 2012: there was a total of 8,123 civil servants, employees and interns, 7,854 of whom were Croats (96.7%), and 269 were persons belonging to national minorities (3.3%).

Statistics on civil servants in the courts on 31 December 2013

In the municipal courts there was a total of 842 employees, 817 of whom were Croats (97.0%), 18 Serbs (2.1%), 2 Italians (0.2%), 2 Bosniaks (0.2%), 1 Hungarian (0.1%) and 2 others (0.2%).

In county courts there was a total of 405 employees, 386 of whom were Croats (95.3%), 14 Serbs (3.4%), 2 Bosniaks (0.5%), and 3 others (0.74%).

In commercial courts there was a total of 127 employed Croats (100%)

In administrative courts there was a total of 34 employed Croats (100%)

In misdemeanour courts there was a total of 374 employees, 357 of whom were Croats (95.5%), 10 Serbs (2.65%), 2 Bosniaks (0.5%), 1 Hungarian (0.3%), 1 Czech (0.3%) and 2 others (0.5%).

In the High Administrative Court, the Supreme Court, the High Commercial Court and the High Misdemeanour Court there was a total of 143 employees, 140 of which were Croats (97.9%), 1 Serb (0.7%) and 2 others (1.4%).

There was a total of 1925 civil servants employed in the courts, 1,861 of which were Croats (96.7%), and 63 were persons belonging to national minorities (3.3%).

Statistics on civil servants in the public prosecutor's offices on 31 December 2013

In municipal public prosecutor's offices there was a total of 422 employees, 407 of whom were Croats (96.5%), 7 Serbs (1.7%), 1 Italian (0.2%), 1 Hungarian (0.2%), 1 Czech (0.2%) and 5 others (1.2%).

In county public prosecutor's offices there was a total of 147 employees, 136 of whom were Croats (92.5%), 9 Serbs (6.1%), 1 Italian (0.6%) and 1 Slovenian (0.6%).

In the Public Prosecution of the Republic of Croatia there was a total of 22 employees, 21 of whom were Croats (95.5%) and 1 Bosniak (4.5%)

In the Anti-Corruption and Organized Crime Office there was a total of 26 employees, 25 of whom were Croats (96.2%) and 1 Serb (3.8%).

In public prosecutor's offices there was a total of 617 employed civil servants, 589 of whom were Croats (95.5%), and 28 were persons belonging to national minorities (4.5%).

In 2013 there was a total of 2,542 employed public legal officials, 2,450 of whom were Croats (96.4%) and 92 were persons belonging to national minorities (3.6%).

Statistics on civil servants, employees and interns in the courts on 31 December 2013

In municipal courts there were 4,165 employees, 4,008 of whom were Croats (96.2%), 95 Serbs (2.28%), 14 Bosniaks (0.34%), 11 Italians (0.26%), 8 Czechs (0.19%), 6 Hungarians (0.14%), 3 Albanians (0.07%), 1 Slovenian (0.02%) and 19 others (0.46%).

In county courts there was a total of 828 employees, 799 of whom were Croats (96.5%), 22 Serbs (2.66%), 1 Czech (0.12%) and 6 others (0.72%).

In commercial courts there was a total of 553 employees, 541 of whom were Croats (97.8%), 8 Serbs (1.45%), 1 Bosniak (0.18%), 2 Hungarians (0.36%) and 1 other (0.18%).

In misdemeanour courts there was a total of 1,101 employees, 1,062 of whom were Croats (96.5%), 21 Serbs (1.91%), 2 Bosniaks (0.18%), 2 Italians (0.18%), 3 Hungarians (0.27%), 7 Czech (0.64%) and 4 others (0.36%).

In the Administrative Court, the Supreme Court, the High Commercial Court and the High Misdemeanour Court there was a total of 242 employees, 240 of which were Croats (99.2%), 1 Serb (0.41%) and 1 other (0.41%).

Statistics on civil servants, employees and interns in public prosecutor's offices on 31 December 2013

In municipal public prosecutor's offices there was a total of 746 employees, 723 of whom were Croats (96.9%), 13 Serbs (1.7%), 2 Bosniaks (0.3%), 3 Italians (0.4%), 1 Albanian (0.1%) and 4 others (0.5%).

In county public prosecutor's offices there was a total of 266 employees, 249 of whom were Croats (93.6%), 12 Serbs (4.5%), 1 Bosniak (0.4%) 1 Italian (0.4%), 1 Slovenian (0.4%), 1 Czech (0.4%) and 1 other (0.4%).

In the Public Prosecution of the Republic of Croatia there was a total of 44 employees, 42 of whom were Croats (95.5%) and 2 Serbs (4.5%).

In the Anti-Corruption and Organized Crime Office there was a total of 25 employees, 24 of whom were Croats (96%) and 1 other (4%).

In the public prosecutor's offices there was a total of 1,081 employed civil servants, employees and interns, 1,038 of whom were Croats (96%), and 43 were persons belonging to national minorities (4%).

In the courts and public prosecutor's offices on 31 December 2013, there was a total of 8,038 civil servants, employees and interns, 7,755 of whom were Croats (96.5%), and 283 were persons belonging to national minorities (3.5%).

Representation of persons belonging to national minorities in the administrative bodies of local and regional governments

From the Report of the Ministry of Public Administration

Article 22(3) of the Constitutional Act stipulates that national minorities are ensured representation in administration in local and regional governments, pursuant to the provisions of a special law that regulates local and regional governments and other laws governing employment policy and in compliance with established rights. In filling posts in the administrative bodies of local units priority is accorded under equal conditions to national minorities.

The Local and Regional Government Act stipulates that persons belonging to national minorities who, pursuant to the provisions of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities, have the right to proportional representation in local and regional representative bodies, have the right to representation in the corresponding local and regional administration.

Local and regional governments are obliged to implement a policy for recruiting new civil servants, or civil servants who fill vacancies, in a manner that will ensure respect for the rights of persons belonging to national minorities.

According to the Local and Regional Civil Servants and Public Employees Act, an employment plan is adopted by a municipal chief official, mayor or county prefect. The employment plans determines, among other things, the filling of posts in administrative bodies by persons belonging to national minorities and specifies the employment of the required number of persons belonging to national minorities with the aim of achieving representation pursuant to the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities and the law that regulates local and regional governmental systems.

When announcing vacancies, local governments with administrative bodies in which representation of national minorities has not been met in compliance with the Constitutional Act are obliged to indicate this in the text of their announcement, and to indicate that the candidates are obliged to invoke that right in their applications, and also that a candidate belonging to a national minority has priority over other candidates only under equal conditions.

It should be stressed that the obligation to adopt employment plans, i.e. the obligation to employ persons belonging to national minorities in administrative bodies of local units, pursuant to the Constitutional Act and the Local and Regional Government Act, applies only to those municipalities and towns in which persons belonging to minorities account for more than 15% of the population, as well as those counties in which minorities account for more than 5%, or units that have the obligation to ensure a proportional representation of persons belonging to minorities in a representative body.

The units where persons belonging to national minorities have a substantial share in their population, but account for less than 15% (municipalities and towns), or less than 5% (counties), do not have the stated legislative obligation, but may (which is also desirable in the spirit of promotion and protection of the status of persons belonging to national minorities in the Republic of Croatia), to provide in their by-laws for the commitment to employ persons belonging to minorities in their administrative bodies. According to available data, administrative bodies in a considerable number of units employ persons belonging to minorities, although the units do not have this obligation.

The effectiveness of employment of persons belonging to national minorities, along with the adoption of employment plans by units, also depends on the applications of persons belonging to minorities for vacancy announcements, their invocation of priority in employment and the fulfilment of the requirements for the job position to be filled.

The situation analysis for the period from 2009 to 2013 indicates a slight growing trend in the number of persons belonging to minorities employed in administrative bodies. On 31 December 2012, according to an audit conducted on 31 December 2013, there was a total of 13,182 civil servants and employees in the administrative bodies of local and regional governments, 563 or 4.27% of whom were persons belonging to one of 22 national minorities, 70 or 0.53% of unstated national identity and 3 or 0.023% of civil servants and employees who declared themselves Muslims. For the purpose of comparison, compared to the situation in 2008, there was a total of 522 civil servants and employees belonging to national minorities in the administrative bodies of local and regional governments, which represents a slight change in the stated period.

Public Sector Staff Register

The Economic Recovery Programme of the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Economic Recovery Programme Enabling Plan contains the measure of compiling a Public Sector Staff Register with a completion date set on 31 March 2011. For the purpose of implementing this measure, on 10 June 2010 the Government of the Republic of Croatia adopted the Decision on Maintenance of the Register of Civil and public Servants (*Narodne novine*, no. 83/10), which includes civil servants and governmental employees as well as public service employees.

On 31 March 2011, the Public Sector Staff Register Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 34/11) entered into force, pursuant to which the Public Sector Staff Register was established in 2011 for the express purpose of higher-quality and updated monitoring of the status of public sector employment and recruitment, including statistical monitoring of the exercise of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities to suitable representation.

Pursuant to the Personal Data Protection Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 103/03, 118/06 and 41/08), personal data may be collected for purposes known to the subject, which is explicitly stated and in compliance with law and may be further processed only for the purpose for which they were gathered, or for a purpose conforming to the purpose of gathering. The legal basis for the collection and further processing of data on civil servants was contained in Article 141 of the Civil Servants Act that was in force at the time (*Narodne novine*, no. 92/05, 107/07 and 27/08).

In May 2011, the Directive on the Content, Collection and Processing of Data and Data Protection Measures for the Public Sector Staff Register (*Narodne novine*, no. 55/11) entered into force. When this Directive entered into force, the Directive on the Content and Manner of Maintaining Personal Files and the Central Register of Civil Servants and Public Employees (*Narodne novine*, no. 113/06) ceased to apply.

Education of national and local civil servants

During 2011, the Public Administration Ministry's Civil Service Vocational Training and Development Centre did not – although planned - entirely implement all of the relevant training programmes for civil servants. For the Government, at its session held on 3 December 2010, adopted the Directive on Establishment of the National Public Administration School for the professional training and development of civil servants, including those serving in local and regional governments and in legal entities vested with

public authorities. Pursuant to the latter Directive's amendments (*Narodne novine*, no. 112/12), the National Public Administration School assumed the activities of the Local Democracy Academy. On 12 May 2011, the Government adopted a decision on the transfer of funding from the central budget for the needs of civil service professional training in 2011 to the National Public Administration School.

Although the programme on "Constitutional Protection of Human Rights and Civil Liberties" was not implemented in 2011, matters pertaining to the protection and promotion of human and minority rights and elimination of discrimination were part of other training programmes for civil servants. During 2011, eight civil servants were included in the Civil Servant Hiring Programme intended for those servants who handle civil service recruitment procedures, while 100 civil servants were included in the programme on "Preparation for the Civil Service Examination".

In mid-December 2011, the Ministry of Public Administration, in cooperation with the Local Democracy Academy, organized two regional consultations for persons belonging to national minorities and the representatives of the local and regional governmental bodies on exercise of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities to suitable representation in national and local administrative bodies for the purpose of promoting rights, motivating and encouraging persons belonging to national minorities to exercise them as stipulated by Articles 22 (2) and (3) of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities. These seminars were held in Karlovac on 12 December 2011 for Karlovac and Sisak-Moslavina Counties, and in Daruvar on 13 December 2011 for Bjelovar-Bilogora, Požega-Slavonia, Virovitica-Podravina and Brod-Posavina Counties.

In 2012, the Ministry of Public Administration, in cooperation with the Local Democracy Academy, organized two regional consultations for persons belonging to national minorities and representatives of local and regional governmental bodies on the exercise of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities to relevant representation in national and local administrative bodies. These seminars were held in Rijeka in July 2012 for Primorje-Gorski Kotar and Istria Counties, and in Beli Manastir in September 2012 for Osijek-Baranja and Vukovar-Srijem Counties.

National minority councils and representatives

Article 23 of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities stipulates that, for the purpose of promotion, preservation and protection of the status of national minorities in society, persons belonging to national minorities elect, in the manner and under the conditions stipulated by the Constitutional Act, their representatives to participate in public life and management of local affairs through national minority councils and representatives in local and regional governmental units.

The Constitutional Act specifies a criterion whereby persons belonging to national minorities may elect councils in those local governmental units in which a certain national minority accounts for a minimum of 1.5% of the total population, in units in which more than 200 persons belonging to a certain national minority live, and in those regional governmental units in which more than 500 persons belonging to a national minority live.

In cases where at least one of the stated conditions for election of a national minority council is not met in the governmental unit where at a minimum of 100 persons belonging to a national minority live, a national minority representative is elected.

On 19 May 2011, the Government made decisions to announce elections for national minority councils and representatives in local and regional governmental units (*Narodne novine*, no. 56/11 and 58/11 – amended decision), whereby the election date was set for 10

July 2011. These were the third elections since enactment of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities which introduced the national minority councils.

Under the aforementioned decisions, pursuant to Article 24(6) of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities which stipulates that census results are authoritative for the determination of the number of persons belonging to a national minority for the purposes of this provision, corrected (increased or reduced) by the number of voters registered or deleted from the electoral roll drawn up to elect members to local representative bodies, elections were announced for a total of 311 national minority councils in 187 local governmental units and for a total of 227 national minority representatives in 129 units. The elections were announced for 113 national minority councils in 98 municipalities, 127 councils in 69 towns and for 71 councils in 19 counties and in the City of Zagreb. Furthermore, elections were announced for 58 national minority representatives in 53 municipalities, 81 representatives in 55 towns and 88 representatives in 20 counties and the City of Zagreb.

The opportunity to nominate candidates for national minority councils was taken by a total of 18 national minorities. These were the following national minorities: Albanian, Bosniak, Bulgarian, Montenegrin, Czech, Hungarian, Macedonian, German, Polish, Roma, Ruthenian, Slovak, Slovenian, Serbian, Italian, Ukrainian, and Jewish. The opportunity to propose candidates for representatives of national minorities was taken by a total of 18 national minorities. These were the following minorities: Albanian, Bosniak, Bulgarian, Montenegrin, Czech, Hungarian, Macedonian, German, Polish, Roma, Ruthenian, Russian, Slovak, Slovenian, Serbian, Italian, Ukrainian, and Jewish, while only the Romanian national minority did not take this opportunity.

Furthermore, the Government made the Decision on Determination of the Amount of Reimbursable Costs of Campaigns for Election of National Minority Councils and Representatives in Local and Regional Governmental Units (*Narodne novine*, no. 56/11), which stipulated that elected national minority councils and representatives in local and regional governmental units are entitled to reimbursement of their campaign costs, and it determined the amount that may be reimbursed.

More precisely, the Government's Decision, in points III and IV, stipulates that a county national minority council and the council in the City of Zagreb are entitled to reimbursement of costs to an amount of HRK 750.00 for each members, while municipal or town level national minority councils are entitled to reimbursement of costs in an amount of HRK 500 for each member. Pursuant to point V, a national minority representative in a local and regional governmental unit is entitled to reimbursement of costs in an amount of HRK 500.

According to information provided by the National Elections Commission on the results of elections for national minority councils and representatives in local and regional governmental units, and according to the voting results determined by the relevant election committees, elections were held for a total of 276 national minority councils.

Because no candidates were nominated, the elections were not held for members of 35 national minority councils. Furthermore, for 236 councils (83 councils in 71 municipalities, 92 councils in 52 towns and 61 councils in 19 counties and in the City of Zagreb) the total number required was elected (10 members at the municipal level, 15 at the town level and 25 at the municipal level, or the City of Zagreb). For 40 councils (15 councils in 10 municipalities, 18 councils in 16 towns as well as 7 councils in 7 counties and in the City of Zagreb) the elected number of council members was lower than required.

With regard to the national minority councils in which a lower than required number of members was elected, in 37 more than a half of the members were elected (in 22 councils

due to a small number of candidates and in 15 due to two or more candidates receiving the same number of votes).

In 3 out of a total of 40 councils for which the number of elected members was lower than required, half of the council members were nominated and elected, or fewer than a half of the council members.

Furthermore, elections were held for a total of 173 national minority representatives. Since there were no nominations, the elections were not held for 54 national minority representatives.

A total of 169 representatives were elected (40 representatives in 37 municipalities, 64 representatives in 46 towns, 65 representatives in 19 counties and in the City of Zagreb). Four candidates were nominated, but were not elected since there were no voters for two of the representatives (in two counties). In elections for one representative, two candidates received an equal number of votes (at the municipal level), while in elections for one representative, one invalid ballot was recorded (at the county level).

Following the elections, the Government made the Decision to Authorize the Convening of National Minority Council Constituent Sessions (*Narodne novine*, no. 93/11) and authorized county prefects, the mayor of the City of Zagreb, mayors and municipal chief officials to convene, within the period of 30 days of the date of the publication of the Decision in *Narodne novine*, the constituent sessions of 236 national minority councils in local and regional governmental units that were elected in full and for 37 national minority councils where more than half of the members were elected. The deadline for convening these constituent sessions of national minority councils and representatives in local and regional governmental units was 9 September 2011.

Pursuant to the National Minority Council, Coordinating Body and Representative Register Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 80/11 and 34/12), in November 2011 the National Minority Council, Coordinating Body and Representative Register was established and the process of entry of register entities commenced together with the issuance of certificates based on applications for registration.

By the end of 2013, a total of 243 national minority councils, 145 representatives and 8 coordinating bodies, to which registration certificates were issued, were entered in the Register.

During October and November 2011, the Ministry of Public Administration and the Local Democracy Academy held five regional seminars for the newly elected national minority council members and representatives: in Split (25 October) for Split-Dalmatia and Dubrovnik-Neretva Counties, in Knin (26 October) for Šibenik-Knin and Zadar Counties, in Gospić (27 October) for Lika-Senj and Karlovac Counties, in Poreč (15 November) for Istria County, and in Rijeka (16 November) for Primorje-Gorski Kotar County.

Furthermore, in 2012 the Ministry of Public Administration, in cooperation with the Local Democracy Academy, held five regional seminars for national minority council members and representatives on their functions, rights and obligations: in Osijek (21 May) for Osijek-Baranja and Vukovar-Srijem Counties; in Lipik (22 May) for Brod-Posavina and Požega-Slavonia Counties; in Bjelovar (23 May) for Bjelovar-Bilogora and Virovitica-Podravina Counties; in Čakovec (24 May) for Međimurje, Varaždin and Koprivnica-Križevci Counties, and in Sisak (25 May) for Sisak-Moslavina, Karlovac and Zagreb Counties.

During 2013, three seminars organized by the Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities and the Council for National Minorities on state level were held on the role and activities that national minority councils and representatives had up to that point: in Karlovac on 27 March, in Split on 11 June and in Čakovec on 15 November.

The problems confronted by individual councils, examples of good practice in the functioning of the councils, the role they played and the activities of national minority

councils and representatives were analyzed at the seminars. Special attention was accorded to strengthening of the role of the national minority councils and representatives and their relationship with the local and regional governments.

With reference to Article 16 of the Framework Convention

From the Report of the Ministry of the Interior

With regard to the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee, points 193 and 205 to improve the conditions for the return of persons belonging to national minorities and the sustainability thereof, it should be emphasized that the Aliens Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 130/11 and 74/13) enables returnees to regulate their permanent residence in the Republic of Croatia under more favourable conditions. Returnees enclose a copy of their passports to the application together with certification that they are beneficiaries of the reconstruction, return or housing programme. Furthermore, returnees may be granted permanent residence without having to first regulate temporary sojourn, provided that they had residence in the Republic of Croatia on 8 October 1991, that they are beneficiaries of the reconstruction, return or housing programme and that it is established that they returned with the intent of living in the Republic of Croatia permanently.

During 2013, 161 applications for permanent residence were submitted on the basis of reconstruction, return or housing programme, and for 62 of the permanent residence applications were granted, 71 applications were refused as they were deemed to be unfounded, while 28 applications were pending.

Return, reconstruction and housing for former tenancy right-holders

With regard to Recommendations no 67 and 71 of the Advisory Committee, a housing programme for former tenancy right-holders has been implemented over a number of years in the Republic of Croatia for those who wish to return to Croatia.

A step forward in this area was achieved by the Amendments to the Ministry and Central Governmental Body Organisation and Jurisdiction Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 39/13) whereby the National Reconstruction and Housing Office was established. It assumed responsibility for activities pertaining to the planning, preparation, organization and monitoring of housing for refugees, displaced persons and returnees – former tenancy right-holders – and other housing beneficiaries from the Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds as of 1 May 2013.

By means of the Areas of Special State Concern Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 86/08, 57/11 and 51A/13) and the Directive on Establishment of the Status of Former Tenancy Right-holders and Family Members and the Housing Procedure Criteria (*Narodne novine*, no. 133/13), Croatia has regulated all legal mechanisms required to protect the interests of returnees of the Serbian national minority. The legislative framework defines the establishment of the right to housing in first instance through the state administrative offices in the counties and in the City of Zagreb with jurisdiction based on the location of housing, while the National Reconstruction and Housing Office is the appellate body.

This Directive institutes equal status for former tenancy right-holders outside of areas of special state concern with those in these areas. This enhances transparency and security for the tenancy right-holder applicants. From the commencement of the return process to the present, the Republic of Croatia has registered a total of 354,594 returnees, 221,321 of whom were refugees, mostly families of Croatian nationality, 133,273 minority returnees, mostly

families of Serbian nationality (93,964 from the Republic of Serbia, 14,362 from Bosnia-Herzegovina and 24,947 displaced persons in the Croatian Danubian zone).

However, the fact is that securing housing for former tenancy right-holders outside of areas of special state concern is still regulated by subordinate legislation: the Conclusion which governs the provision of housing for returnees who do not own a house or a flat and lived in state-owned flats (former tenancy right-holders) in the areas of Croatia outside of areas of special state concern (*Narodne novine*, no. 100/03, 179/04 and 79/05), on the basis of which still unresolved applications submitted in accordance with its provisions are considered; the Decision concerning housing for returnees/former tenancy right-holders outside of areas of special state concern (*Narodne novine*, no. 29/11 and 139/11), on the basis of which pending applications, submitted in accordance with its provisions, are considered; and the Decision concerning housing for returnees/former tenancy right-holders outside of areas of special state concern (*Narodne novine*, no. 42/13), that became effective on 17 April 2013, are all applied simultaneously.

Additionally, according to the Decision on the Management of Publically-Owned Housing Units (*Narodne novine*, no. 144/13) and the Decision on the Management of Publically-Owned Housing Units in the Croatian Danubian Zone (*Narodne novine*, no. 1/14), former tenancy right-holders may purchase flats under terms and conditions more favourable than those prevailing on the market.

Furthermore, the Republic of Croatia shall endeavour to resolve the remaining 1,189 positive applications and the remaining, approximately 4,500 unresolved applications (with a deadline of 31 August 2013) through the Regional Housing Programme. The Regional Permanent Housing Solutions Programme for Refugees and Displaced Persons is a joint initiative of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia, i.e. partner countries, based on the Joint Declaration signed by the foreign ministers of the partner countries in Belgrade in 2011. It is implemented with assistance of the international community (EC, USA, UNHCR, OSCE). The regional housing care programme consists of four national housing care programmes.

The National Reconstruction and Housing Office is the agency responsible for implementation of the Regional Housing Programme in the Republic of Croatia. 3,541 families, or 8,529 persons, are encompassed by Croatia's housing programme, and €119.7 million has been planned for the required funding.

As part of the Regional Housing Programme, during 2013, the Donors Assembly approved a total of three project phases: “*Construction of a multi-unit housing complex for 29 families in the Municipality of Korenica*” in April, “*Construction of two buildings in Knin for 40 families*” and “*Reconstruction of the retirement and disabled persons home in Glina for 75 persons*” in October and “*Purchasing flats for 101 potential beneficiaries*” in December. On 3 December 2013, the Framework Agreement between the Republic of Croatia and the Council of Europe Development Bank was signed in Paris as the fundamental legal document that establishes the legal framework for the use of the Regional Housing Programme Fund which is administered un by the Council of Europe Development Bank, to be used by the Republic of Croatia during implementation of approved project stages.

During the past five-year period, the Areas of Special State Concern Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 86/08, 57/11, 51/A/13, and 148/13) was amended, as was the Reconstruction Act (*Narodne novine*, no. 24/96, 54/96, 87/96, 57/00, 38/09, 45/11, 51A/13), while the Directive on the Criteria for Determination and Loss of Refugee, Displaced Person or Returnee Status (*Narodne novine*, no. 133/13) and the Directive on Establishment of Former Tenancy Right-holder and Family Member Status and the Housing Criteria and Procedures (*Narodne novine*, no. 133/13) were adopted.

Furthermore, the amendments to the Areas of Special State Concern Act stipulate that petitioners with pending applications, listed as priorities for 2013, may supplement their applications by 31 March 2014, lest the relevant state administrative office (including the one in the City of Zagreb), should deem them untimely or incomplete and reject them.

During 2013, implementation of the reconstruction and repair programme commenced for housing damaged or destroyed in the war, as well as investments in the reconstruction or new construction of utilities and municipal infrastructure for the purpose of completion of the reconstruction and return programme, as well as the provision of conditions for sustainable residence and life in formerly war-stricken areas.

Through the reconstruction and housing programme, in 2013 the donated building materials for the repair, reconstruction or construction of family homes were used for the reconstruction or construction of a total of 1,178 housing units (329 reconstructed and 849 donated building materials). The National Reconstruction and Housing Office has no data available on the share in which the persons belonging to national minorities are represented in these programmes.

During the stated year, the implementation of the housing programme continued for former tenancy right-holders who intend to return to the Republic of Croatia both within and outside of areas of special state concern, so that during 2013, 92 housing units were allocated. Out of a total of 92 allocated housing units, by the end of 2013, the keys and possession of 55 of them were transferred.

It is important to note that the databases inherited from the Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds did not include the national identity of the beneficiaries as a distinctive feature and that no special records are maintained for persons belonging to national minorities, and an attempt will be made to change this in the new programmes so as to enable reporting on improvements in the area of respecting rights in this category. However, the data mostly refer to the persons belonging to national minorities in the areas of returnees.

In 2013, funding was secured by the Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds until May 2013, whereafter it was assumed by the National Reconstruction and Housing Office, with one line-item for the Ministry of Construction and Physical Planning/State Real Estate Brokerage Agency.

In 2013, an amount of HRK 224,138,744.23 from National Reconstruction and Housing Office and the Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds was spent to finance solutions to the problems of national minority refugees, among others. According to the Office's data, funding from the Ministry of Construction and Physical Planning/State Real Estate Brokerage Agency was used to cover the housing needs of national minority refugees and former tenancy right-holders in 2013 in an amount of HRK 8,484,489.94.

In his Operating Report for 2011, the Ombudsman stated that during 2011, 37 complaints were lodged regarding housing, most of them from Sisak-Moslavina, Lika-Senj, Šibenik-Knin and Vukovar-Srijem Counties. Citizens mostly complained about lengthy procedures to secure housing in areas of special state concern (due mainly to the lack of available housing, in particular in the area of Vukovar-Srijem County), on the condition (or lack thereof) of housing units, and failure to respond to requests for exercise of the right to remuneration pursuant to the Conclusion of the Government of the Republic of Croatia of 17 July 2008. According to this Conclusion, each family member who has exercised the right to housing is entitled to HRK 25.00 daily with the purpose of arranging for housing by him-/herself until taking possession of a state-owned flat or house. Under the Decision on Housing for Tenancy Right-holders Outside of Areas of Special State Concern (*Narodne novine*, no. 29/11), the term was extended for submitting requests to last from 9 March to 9 December 2011, while based on an amendment to the Decision (*Narodne novine*, no. 139/11), the term was additionally extended to 30 April 2012. Under certain conditions, the possibility was left

open for resolving the housing issue outside of areas of special state concern to returnees, former tenancy right-holders and their family members.

According to the data from the Report of the Ombudsman on instances of discrimination in 2012, 40 complaints pertained to the problems of the Serbian national minority in exercise of the right to housing for former tenancy right-holders. In 2013, 117 complaints were lodged with the Ombudsman's Office regarding housing. The poor economic situation in the region, high unemployment and lengthy procedures are the main obstacles to returns.

With reference to Articles 17 and 18 of the Framework Convention

From the Report of the Ministry of Culture

The Ministry of Culture supports all activities that further cultural cooperation with the countries of mother nations, by which it indirectly but continuously improves the cultural autonomy of persons belonging to national minorities in the Republic of Croatia as well. A provision on protection of cultural autonomy is included in the following bilateral cooperation programmes and bilateral cooperation treaties and agreements signed by the Republic of Croatia during the past five-year period:

- Cultural cooperation programme between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia and the Ministry of National Resources of the Republic of Hungary for the period 2012-2015, signed in Dubrovnik on 10 July 2011,
- Programme of cooperation in the area of culture and education for the period 2013-2015, pursuant to Article 13 section (1) of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Government of the Republic of Austria on cooperation in the area of culture and education, signed in Zagreb on 21 November 2012,
- Programme of cultural cooperation between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia and the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic for 2013-2017, signed in Bratislava on 28 January 2013,
- Programme of cultural cooperation between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Macedonia for 2012-2017, signed in Bratislava on 28 January 2013,
- Programme of cultural cooperation between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia and the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic for 2013-2015, signed in Prague on 4 July 2013,
- Programme of cultural cooperation between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia and the Ministry of Culture and Religious Affairs of Romania for 2013-2017 (pending).

Bilateral cooperation

State Office for Croats Abroad

Pursuant to the Republic of Croatia Relations with Croats Abroad Act, in 2012 the Government of the Republic of Croatia established the State Office for Croats Abroad as a central administrative body responsible for relations between the Republic of Croatia and Croats living abroad. Within the scope of its operations, the State Office encourages the drafting and monitoring of international agreements on the protection of minorities through the currently existing intergovernmental mixed committees. The Republic of Croatia has thus far signed five agreements and treaties on the protection of minorities: with Hungary, Italy, Macedonia, and the Republic of Serbia and Montenegro, while through legal succession it assumed the 1955 State Agreement with the Republic of Austria, wherein Article 7 stipulates certain minority rights for Croats.

During the reporting period, the first session of the Intergovernmental mixed committee between the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Macedonia was held on 27 January 2009 in Skopje, and the following session was held on 25 November 2010 in Zagreb. The intergovernmental mixed committee between Croatia and Serbia met in Belgrade and Šid on 19 and 20 September 2011.

Croatia and Hungary held the 12th session of the intergovernmental mixed committee for implementation of the Agreement between the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Hungary in Budapest on 28 November 2012 on protection of the Hungarian minority in the Republic of Croatia and the of the Croatian minority in the Republic of Hungary – MOM. The stated Agreement continues to ensure preservation of the customs, cultural values and historical heritage of Hungary, and of the Croatian national community at a high level, whereby it contributes to the expression of their awareness of national identity.

From the point of view of bilateral cooperation on the protection of minorities, the participation and active operation of representatives of Croatian national communities in Hungary and the Hungarian national communities in Croatia is regarded as both highly significant and necessary.

At the session, among other things, there was discussion of the new Hungarian Constitution of 18 April 2011, which defines nationalities, among them Croats, as part of the Hungarian political community and as part of the state, and their rights are also stipulated by a new national law. The results achieved thus far in executing the recommendations adopted during previous sessions were also discussed and the parties agreed to maintain 28 out of the previous 36 recommendations, eight of which deal with general matters, 13 with education and 7 with culture and information. Furthermore, both parties agreed to adopting 21 new recommendations (although no final agreement has yet been reached on the content of one), 5 of which deal with general matters, 4 with education and 12 with culture and information.

The efforts of the intergovernmental mixed committee between the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Hungary are aimed at improving the mutual protection of minorities and the status of the Croatian and Hungarian minorities living in the two countries in 2012 has been deemed positive.

PART III.

MONITORING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION

During the preceding period, additional progress was achieved in implementation of the Framework Convention, and regular annual seminars organized by the Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities with the participation of representatives of the Council of Europe Advisory Committee for Monitoring the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities contributed to this. The representatives of national minority associations and councils, representatives of national minorities in the Croatian Parliament and representatives of the Council for National Minorities on state level participated in deliberations at these conferences in order to express their opinion on the document.

On 9 December 2010, a one-day seminar organized jointly by the then Office for National Minorities and the Council for National Minorities on state level was held in Zagreb with the aim of informing the general public on implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in the Republic of Croatia, on which occasion the Third opinion of the Council of Europe Advisory Committee for Implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in the Republic of Croatia was presented along with the responses to it from the Republic of Croatia.

The seminar was attended by a number of prominent experts in the field of the minority rights protection, both Croatian and foreign, members of state institutions, representatives of national minorities in the Croatian Parliament, representatives of national minority associations, representatives of local and regional authorities, members of national minority councils as well as representatives of the relevant ministries and other state bodies involved in implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. Four workshops were organized within the seminar, in which the participants analyzed the issues confronting national minorities in the areas of education and the media, participation in decision-making processes, exercising their cultural autonomy and returns and housing. Persons belonging to all national minorities were invited to give their remarks and comments on implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

The following seminar was held in Zagreb on 20 April 2012, organized by the Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities and the Council for National Minorities on state level. The seminar was once again organized to encourage public debate on implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in the Republic of Croatia. Three workshops were organized within the seminar, in which the participants analyzed the issues confronted by national minorities in the areas of participation in decision-making processes, education as well as cultural autonomy and media access.

The last seminar on implementation of the Framework Convention of the previous reporting period was organized in cooperation with the Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities and the Council for National Minorities on state level, and held in Zagreb on 18 December 2013, in the Croatian Parliament's minor assembly hall. At the seminar, the draft of Croatia's fourth report on implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities was discussed.

The participants in the seminar were given the thematic comments concerning education and the use of languages and scripts from the Council of Europe Advisory Committee on implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

In the light of the latest developments, special emphasis was placed on presentations to the national minority right to equality in the official use of their languages and scripts, as

stipulated by the Framework Convention, but also the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, which is also a binding international document for the Republic of Croatia, as a party to the Charter.

The ratification instrument for the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities is attached to this Report (Appendix 7).

CONCLUSION

The Republic of Croatia is committed to safeguarding and securing of national minority rights. During the past reporting period the regulatory framework was improved in the area of protection of national minority rights.

The enforcement of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities also entails implementation arising from international treaties to which the Republic of Croatia is a party, primarily the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

For the purpose of enhancing and improving implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities, the Government of the Republic of Croatia adopted the Action Plan for Implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities for the period from 2011 to 2013.

In the field of fostering tolerance for differences and combating discrimination, the adoption of the National Human Rights Protection and Promotion Programme from 2013 to 2016 is deemed vital as a strategic Croatian Government document which stipulates measures for the improvement of protection and promotion of human rights in the Republic of Croatia, wherein one of the priority areas is national minority rights.

For the purpose of improving the socio-economic status of the Roma national minority and their complete integration into society, the National Strategy for Roma Inclusion for the period from 2013 to 2022 was adopted and aligned with the EU framework for national Roma inclusion strategies, along with the Action Plan for its implementation.

The Government of the Republic of Croatia strongly condemned the incidents that took place during 2013 concerning the installation of bilingual signs in the City of Vukovar. As it is a state governed by laws, the Republic of Croatia has the obligation to ensure the rights of national minorities and consistent implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities throughout its territory. The Republic of Croatia, as a party to the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and to the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, shall undertake proactive measures aimed at ensuring complete exercise and promotion and protection of the language rights of national minorities at all levels.

During the past period additional progress was achieved in implementation of the Framework Convention, and the regular annual seminars organized by the Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities with the participation of the representatives of the Council of Europe Advisory Committee for Monitoring the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities contributed to this. The representatives of national minority associations and councils, national minority representatives in the Croatian Parliament and the representatives of the Council for National Minorities on state level participated in deliberations at these conferences in order to express their opinion on the document.

According to the Opinion of the Council for National Minorities on state level, in the preceding period national minority rights were improved in almost all areas. Providing support to numerous cultural programmes should continue with the aim of preserving the cultural and national identity of national minorities and access to the media should be

improved while simultaneously ensuring activities aimed at combating discrimination, prejudices and stereotypes.

Upon its accession to the European Union, the Republic of Croatia has undertaken the commitment to protect and respect national minority rights. Implementation of the Framework Convention contributed to the improvement of national minority rights in the Republic of Croatia, therefore the Government of the Republic of Croatia shall continue providing support to implementation of this internationally binding document.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1. From the reports of national minority associations on implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

THE BOSNIAK NATIONAL COMMUNITY OF ZAGREB AND THE COUNTY OF ZAGREB

Apart from the oft-repeated claims that national minority protection in the Republic of Croatia is outstanding in terms of legislation, but that problems arise in enforcement of legal provisions, it is the view of the Bosniak national community that minorities still confront difficulties when it comes to gaining employment in the civil service, judiciary, police and the public sector. What is still lacking is a more detailed analysis and action plan for implementation of this important minority right.

The minority presence in the media is not satisfactory, with coverage often highlighting negative phenomena or incidents. Apart from insufficient media presence, there is a disproportionality in public media exposure between and within individual minority communities on television programmes such as *Prizma* (Prism) and *Manjinski mozaik* (Minority Mosaic). Also, the media content reserved for national minorities is devoted to religious broadcasts, although there are specialised television programmes, such as *Mir i dobro* (Peace and Goodwill), devoted to religious issues.

In their report, the Bosniak national community stress the need to improve and introduce more objectivity in the Council's criteria for the distribution of funds, as well as the criteria for evaluating how national minority associations and institutions implement their programmes.

COMMUNITY OF MACEDONIANS IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

The Community of Macedonians in the Republic of Croatia, as an umbrella association of the Macedonian national minority, has continuously been monitoring the status of the Macedonian national minority in the Croatia in the observed period. This Community, which consists of Macedonian culture associations located in major cities (Zagreb, Split, Osijek, Pula, Rijeka and Zadar), is familiar with the state of play and implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by the Republic of Croatia with respect to the Macedonian national minority.

In their report, the Community of Macedonians commends the inclusion of all national minorities in Croatia into the Preamble of the Constitution as yet another step forward in improving the formal and legal status of persons belonging to national minorities in Croatia.

Furthermore, they think that the public should be informed and sensitised as much as possible about the Anti-Discrimination Act either through the written media or public forums featuring persons belonging to national minorities.

They emphasize that the naturalization procedure is a complex one. Frequent changes to the Croatian Citizenship Act create a sense of uncertainty among members of national minorities and, consequently, they are deprived of enjoying the protections enshrined in the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities. This specifically pertains to national minority members with permanent resident status in the Croatia.

The Community of Macedonians welcomes the examples of involving national minority members in the recording of the 2011 Census, as well as the authorities demonstrating their responsiveness by accepting suggestions from members of national minorities on certain issues.

With respect to the Croatian Parliamentary Elections Act, they propose that members of Parliament representing the so-called "new and minor" national minorities, such as the

Macedonians, Montenegrins, Slovenes and Bosniaks, be rotated every other year based on proportionality.

With reference to national minority councils and representatives, their proposal is to legislate more precisely on the obligations of local governments in terms of funding for council operations and the budget appropriations for their operations, and other improvements concerning cooperation between national minority councils and local governments.

THE PROSVJETA SERBIAN CULTURE SOCIETY

With regard to the Serbian national minority, the Prosvjeta Serbian Culture Society pointed to a general improvement in the social climate during the reporting period. The Council for National Minorities on state level supported the programmes put forth by Serbian national minority institutions within the scope of increasingly modest means. The problem lay in a substantial reduction of the funding they received from the relevant ministries in charge of culture and science and education and sports, respectively after the 2011 elections, greatly reducing their potential for social inclusion in Croatian society.

In the report, they highlight the positive example of central minority libraries, of which there are currently ten, and which are institutions that operate autonomously but are supported by the government. This is particularly the case for the Serbian minority, whose central library is run as part of the Prosvjeta Society.

When it comes to education of members of national minorities, Prosvjeta holds that it is better designed as a right than implemented in practice. They believe that not enough has been done on the part of both the relevant ministry and the local authorities to popularise this minority right and, particularly, that no progress had been made in introducing minority content into the majority curriculum. Generally speaking, although the climate has improved, it is Prosvjeta's opinion there has not been any significant intertwining of majority and minority culture programs in the reporting period.

THE UNION OF ALBANIANS IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

In its report, the Union of Albanians stresses that the Republic of Croatia has well-ordered legislation protecting national minority rights, that the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities one of the best laws that regulate national minority issues in Croatia, and that other pieces of legislation governing minority rights in various fields are also of high quality.

The Albanian national minority is satisfied with implementation of the National Minority Language and Script Education Act. The Union states that this national minority has chosen Model C for organising enrolment for their minority members in more than 10 classes. Substantial assistance in the exercise of this right was provided by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports.

It is the Union's opinion that the model for representation of minorities in the Croatian Parliament should be altered, because the present model does not allow for representation of other minorities.

The Union expressed its satisfaction with the distribution of central budgetary funds via the Council for National Minorities on state level and that they receive no other donations.

However, over the past five years the Albanian minority, the Union of Albanian Communities in particular, has seen a decline in allocated funding. For that reason they propose that consideration be given to a possibility for the Council for National Minorities on state level to discuss a financial support distribution model, because each national minority has its specific characteristics that ought to be taken into account when funding is allocated.

With reference to amendments to the NGO Act, the Union believes that greater consideration should have been accorded to the views of national minority associations, because they essentially differ from other types of associations, particularly when it comes to umbrella associations of national minorities and their status.

In conclusion, the Albanian national minority emphasizes that in the Republic of Croatia they have opportunities for their full national validation.

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF ZAGREB

The Republic of Croatia arguably has one of the best European legislative frameworks that should serve as the basis for and guarantee of enjoyment of national minority rights and their protection. Unfortunately, however, in many areas of national minority and other minority activities and work this is not the case, because the government has not ensured the implementation of certain legal provisions or some of these provisions are insufficiently defined so that activities proceed in line with non-binding opinions issued by state bodies.

The Jewish Community of Zagreb maintains that in the future insistence should be demonstrated in the exercise of rights stemming from the Restitution of Seized Assets Act (governing assets seized by the Yugoslav communist regime), in enforcement of the Media Act and the provisions of the Criminal Prosecution Act in terms of taking the appropriate measures with a view to identifying and prosecuting the perpetrators of criminal offences who glorify totalitarian regimes, make ethnic slurs, devastate monuments dedicated to the suffering of national minority members and so forth. Also, it calls for a reconsideration of the criteria defining national minority organisations and those determining the amount of central budgetary grants to religious and national minorities.

THE UNION OF SLOVENIAN ASSOCIATIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

The Union of Slovenian Associations in the Republic of Croatia encompasses all Slovenian associations in Croatia, all 16 throughout the country: in Zagreb, Rijeka, Split, Pula, Lovran, Zadar, Šibenik, Dubrovnik, Varaždin, Tršće, Umag, Karlovac, Osijek, Labin, Buzet and Poreč. Ever since the establishment of the Union, all Slovenian associations have pursued their fundamental aims of preserving their cultural heritage, the Slovenian language, identity and traditionally good relations with the Croatian people. Even though all associations bear the attribution “culture” in their names, in order to facilitate the pursuit of their mission, there is a desire for Slovenian national minority representatives to actively engage in the adoption of Croatian laws and regulations. And that would be possible and feasible, they believe, only if they are in a position to elect their own member of parliament.

The Union of Slovenian Associations points out that the present electoral law precludes small national minorities in the Croatia from electing their own representatives to the Croatian Parliament. Since the former mechanism whereby one member of parliament represented several national minorities has proven ineffective, they believe the law should be amended to secure equality among national communities as to their representation in Parliament.

The Slovenian community also sees shortcomings in implementation of that part of Constitutional Act which safeguards the free and unimpeded expression of affiliation with a national minority when it comes to changing one’s affiliation as registered in voter rolls. They illustrate this by citing that such change is possible in Zagreb by simply putting a declaration on record, while in smaller towns and administrative units of local governments this turns out to be a very complex procedure, in certain cases virtually impossible.

The opinion of the Union of Slovenian Associations in the Republic of Croatia about the Report on Implementation of the Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities is written in a very thorough manner and it extensively describes and elaborates all areas of importance to the status of national minorities in the Republic of Croatia.

Appendix 2. Funds allocated by the Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities through the Commission on Monitoring Implementation of the National Programme for the Roma/National Strategy for Roma Inclusion

In the 2009–2013 reporting period, a total of HRK 3,492,588.77 was allocated from the Office for National Minorities budget line-item through the Commission on Monitoring Implementation of the National Programme for Roma/National Strategy for Roma Inclusion.

In 2009, a total of HRK 501,116.84. was allocated from the Office for National Minorities budget line-item through the Commission for Monitoring Implementation of the National Programme for Roma, as itemised below:

RECIPIENT	FUNDS (HRK)
Social Welfare Centre in Dugo Selo co-funding of water- and power-supply hook-ups for the family of Gordana Horvat and Juraj Oršoš	10,000.00
Social Welfare Centre in Slavonski Brod improvement of living conditions of the family of Ratko Lukić	5,000.00
Social Welfare Centre in Čakovec payment of the water-supply bill for the family of Dušan Horvat	2,700.00
AUTO-STOP d. o. o., Čakovec purchase of <i>Children as Pedestrians and Passengers in Traffic</i> brochure	5,000.00
Social Welfare Centre in Čakovec improvement of housing conditions of the family of Katarina and Radoslav Ignac	5,000.00
Social Welfare Centre in Sisak grant to the family of Žarko Todorović for purchase of building materials	5,000.00
Town of Našice completion of works on the pavement in Braća Radić street in the hamlet of Vukojevci	70,000.00
Međimurje County payment of one part of the cost of development of main project designs for the road and sewage network in Roma settlements in the municipality of Orehovica and the town of Mursko Središće	100,000.00
Međimurje County municipal waste collection in the settlement of Parag, Municipality of Nedelišće	70,000.00
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb emergency assistance for payment of rent for the family of Šaban Ramadan	15,000.00
Social Welfare Centre in Karlovac emergency assistance for payment of rent for the family of Ivanka Vezić	20,000.00
Municipality of Sveti Đurd, Varaždin County emergency assistance for the rehabilitation of roofs in two Roma settlements	30,000.00
Social Welfare Centre in Čakovec costs of commuting for Tamara Šebestijan from Kotoriba to Čakovec where she attends volunteer vocational training	5,000.00

at the Čakovec County Hospital	
Town of Mursko Središće, Međimurje County	30,000.00
co-funding of transportation to pre-school for Roma children	
Municipality of Podturen, Međimurje County	13,416.84
emergency assistance for the renovation of the Lončarevo kindergarten	
Social Welfare Centre in Knin	4,000.00
emergency assistance for improvement of living conditions of the family of Šerzade Seferović Dodić	
Municipality of Pribislavec, Međimurje County	20,000.00
financial assistance for the building of the Multicultural Centre in the Pribislavec Roma settlement	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	3,000.00
emergency assistance to cover funeral costs of Emira Mašić	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	13,000.00
emergency assistance for purchase of medicines and part-settlement of hospital bills for the young girl Laura Cakići	
Municipality of Kotoriba, Međimurje County	50,000.00
emergency assistance for housing (payment of rent) for 3 Roma families	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	10,000.00
emergency assistance for improvement of living conditions of the family of Indira Muharemi	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	10,000.00
emergency assistance for improvement of living conditions of the family of Šemso Bajramović	
Municipality of Petrijanec, Varaždin County	5,000.00
financial assistance for the installation of street lighting in the Strmec Roma settlement	

In 2010, a total of HRK 765,874.49 was allocated from the Office for National Minorities budget item through the Commission on Monitoring Implementation of the National Programme for Roma, as itemised below:

Social Welfare Centre in Dugo Selo	15,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Ramo Beganović of Dugo Selo for improvement of living conditions (roof repairs)	
Social Welfare Centre in Varaždin	10,000.00
one-off financial assistance for the seven surviving underage children of Stojanka Oršoš from the Strmec Roma settlement, who died in tragic circumstances, Varaždin County	
Međimurje County	100,000.00
for pre-school care and education of Roma children and their transportation to school	
Međimurje County	30,000.00
one-off financial assistance for the hire of a water tanker truck to supply drinking water to the Gornji Kuršanec Roma settlement, Municipality of Nedelišće	
Social Welfare Centre in Zaprešić	30,000.00
one-off financial assistance for housing of the Roma from Pušća	
Social Welfare Centre in Slavonski Brod	8,000.00
one-off financial assistance for the repair of fire damage on the family home of Vladimir Mihajlović	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	8,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the Hrustić family to build a bathroom	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	20,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Đemila Šečić for housing	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	15,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the Šabani family for roof, door and window repairs	
City of Slavonski Brod	100,000.00
one-off financial assistance to part-fund flood damage repair in a Roma settlement	
Social Welfare Centre Slavonski Brod	4,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Nenad Nikolić to purchase medicines and settlement of treatment costs of a two year-old girl	

Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	10,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Hanka Muratović for essential housing refurbishments	
Social Welfare Centre in Čakovec	7,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Zvezdan Oršuš for essential housing refurbishments	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	5,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Senka Avdić for housing renovation	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	7,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Vesna Hamidović to partially settle utility bill arrears	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	10,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Nadira Šainovska for housing costs and purchase of medicine	
Social Welfare Centre in Karlovac	10,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Nebojša Udorović for roof rehabilitation	
Social Welfare Centre in Kutina	10,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Željko Bogdano for improvement of living conditions	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	10,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Ismeta Mehmedović for improvement of living conditions	
Social Welfare Centre in Karlovac	10,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Cveto Velić for purchase of essential furniture	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	10,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Mifailj Beriša to co-fund a water-supply connection	
United World Colleges Croatia	12,000.00
one-off financial assistance to Benjamin Ignac to cover expenses not included in his scholarship for attending college in Norway	
Međimurje County	150,000.00
financial assistance for co-funding of pre-school care and education of Roma minority children	
Municipality of Pribislavec	20,000.00
financial assistance to co-fund the organising and implementation of full-day school programme for pre-school and school children in Pribislavec Municipality	
Town of Mursko Središće	10,000.00
financial assistance to co-fund the transportation of Roma minority children of pre-school age in the 2010/2011 school year (Maslačak Kindergarten)	
Town of Mursko Središće	15,000.00
financial assistance to co-fund the transportation of Roma minority children of pre-school age in the school year 2010/2011	
Međimurje County	15,000.00
financial assistance to co-fund the "Pathway to Social Inclusion" Project of the Association for Well-being of Međimurje Roma	
Međimurje County	8,000.00
financial assistance to Blaženka Ignac of Piškorovec for continued education	
Social Welfare Centre in Slavonski Brod	8,000.00
financial assistance to the family of Nada and Zoran Radosavljević for finding accommodation after flooding	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	5,526.26
financial assistance to the family of Mejra Abaz to purchase building materials	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	5,000.00
financial assistance to Murka Osmanović for improvement of housing conditions	
Social Welfare Centre in Đurđevac	7,638.30
financial assistance to the family of Milan Oršuš for an electricity hook-up	
Social Welfare Centre in Čakovec	8,309.93

financial assistance to the family of Marijan Kalanjoš of Podturen to settle construction costs (HRK 3,309.93 for a concrete ceiling and HRK 5,000 for building a roof)	
Social Welfare Centre in Čakovec	2,000.00
financial assistance to the family of Franc Horvat of Sitnice for roof repair	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	10,000.00
financial assistance to the family of Ramadan Šaban for settlement of housing costs	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	10,000.00
financial assistance towards the cost of further education of Admir and Denis Ahmetović	
Social Welfare Centre in Knin	5,000.00
financial assistance to Šerzada Seferović for medical treatment costs	
Better Future Roma Women's Association, Zagreb	10,000.00
financial assistance to co-fund a summer school	
Association of Roma of Zagreb and Zagreb County, Zagreb	4,400.00
financial assistance towards part-coverage of costs of transportation to Crikvenica in the context of a summer school	
Social Welfare Centre in Koprivnica	8,000.00
financial assistance to the family of Martin Oršoš, Peteranec for housing	
Social Welfare Centre in Zaprešić	20,000.00
financial assistance to the family of Emrija Sadiku, Bistra, to cover housing costs	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	3,000.00
financial assistance to the family of Ivan Ibrišević to cover housing costs	

In 2011, a total of HRK 842,692.62 was allocated from the Office for National Minorities budget item through the Commission on Monitoring Implementation of the National Programme for Roma, as itemised below:

Medimurje County	63,300.00
one-off financial assistance for further education of students belonging to the Roma national minority: Dubravko Kalanjoš, Mirjana Balog, Tamara Oršoš, Oliver Kalanjoš and Blaženka Ignac	
Social Welfare Centre in Karlovac	5,000.00
one-off financial assistance for home furnishing	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	8,092.60
one-off financial assistance to the Selmić family for purchase of a gas boiler	
Social Welfare Centre in Čakovec	20,000.00
one-off financial assistance the rehabilitation of Boris Balog's flood-damaged house	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	3,000.00
one-off financial assistance to Behija and Sakob Bošković for roof repairs and adaptation of housing	
Social Welfare Centre in Duga Resa	8,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Ana Martišković for home reconstruction or alternative accommodation	
Social Welfare Centre in Koprivnica	5,000.00
one-off financial assistance to Valentina Oršoš for housing	
Social Welfare Centre in Slavonski Brod	2,561.30
one-off financial assistance for repair of flood damage to the home of the family of Goran Radosavljević	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	20,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Hano and Đula Šarić for reconstruction of roof, door, windows and laminate flooring	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	15,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Rasim Mašić for reconstruction of roof, door, windows and laminate flooring	
Social Welfare Centre in Kutina	10,000.00
one-off financial assistance for construction of roof and repair of the interior of the family home of Suzana Koko	
Social Welfare Centre in Karlovac	3,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Đurđa Odorović for purchase of essential furniture and home appliances	

Social Welfare Centre in Slavonski Brod	10,000.00
one-off financial assistance for medical treatment and recovery of the boy Darko Stanković	
Social Welfare Centre in Slavonski Brod	6,000.00
one-off financial assistance for improvement of living conditions of the family of Branko Nikolić	
Social Welfare Centre in Karlovac	3,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Slavica Brajković for home furnishing	
Roma for Roma Association of Croatia	10,000.00
one-off financial assistance for continued implementation of educational programmes for Roma youth	
Social Welfare Centre in Čakovec	21,000.00
financial assistance (reallocation of funds) for purchase of a pre-fabricated home for the family of Goran Balog whose daughter died in a house fire	
Social Welfare Centre in Slavonski Brod	5,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Đorđe Mitrović for reconstruction of roof and flooring	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	3,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Senada Mujkanović for improvement of living conditions	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	20,000.00
one-off financial assistance to Hata Eminović for accommodation (payment of rent) following an eviction	
Medimurje County	25,000.00
one-off financial assistance for drinking water supply for the population of the Gornji Kuršanec Roma settlement, Nedelišće Municipality– building of a well	
Medimurje County	13,700.00
one-off financial assistance to Mario Oršuš for continued education	
Formula film d.o.o.	20,000.00
one-off financial assistance towards the completion of children’s movie “The Little Gypsy Witch”	
Social Welfare Centre in Slavonski Brod	6,300.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Alija Rešat for building a bathroom	
Social Welfare Centre in Slavonski Brod	10,000.00
one-off financial assistance to Milena Jovanović for medical treatment costs	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	5,000.00
One-off financial assistance to Kemal Ahmetović to settle utility bill arrears	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	10,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Senada Muratović for home furnishing	
Social Welfare Centre in Slavonski Brod	10,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Nada Radić for rehabilitation of flood damage to home	
Social Welfare Centre in Slavonski Brod	15,000.00
one-off financial assistance to Srećko Mitrović for completion of family home	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	4,000.00
one-off financial assistance to Enver Muratović to settle gas bill arrears	
Social Welfare Centre in Slavonski Brod	5,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Bejt Šukrija for ceiling repairs	
Social Welfare Centre in Slavonski Brod	13,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Ratko Lukić for home repair– moisture insulation	
Social Welfare Centre in Sisak	20,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Željko Todorović for home construction (purchase of building materials)	
Social Welfare Centre in Čakovec	5,000.00
one-off financial assistance to Marijan Kalanjoš for completing the new home	
Romska vatra Football Club, Piškorovec	15,000.00
one-off financial assistance for purchase of kit and equipment for the club	

Social Welfare Centre in Rijeka	8,700.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Ćamil Hašimi for six-months' rent	
Social Welfare Centre in Rijeka	4,600.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Ibrahim Hašim for rent	
Social Welfare Centre in Rijeka	2,000.00
one-off financial assistance to Ramiza Sulejmani for home rehabilitation	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	5,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Mustafa Osmanović for roof repairs	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	7,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Sabiha Beganović for home extension (building a room for an underage child)	
Social Welfare Centre in Rijeka	3,000.00
one-off financial assistance to Kadrija Beganaj to settle water bill arrears	
Social Welfare Centre in Rijeka	3,000.00
one-off financial assistance to Isljam Ethem to settle water bill arrears	
Social Welfare Centre in Rijeka	3,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Uma Ferizi to settle power bill arrears	
Social Welfare Centre in Rijeka	8,266.51
one-off financial assistance to the family of Seljim-Nevruz Galjuša for health insurance outlays	
Social Welfare Centre in Rijeka	3,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Nusret Feziri to settle utility bills, rent and part of costs of medical treatment	
Social Welfare Centre in Rijeka	3,000.00
one-off financial assistance to Djemilja Memedi to settle utility bill arrears	
Social Welfare Centre in Rijeka	3,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Sulejman Dibrani for home adaptations	
Social Welfare Centre in Rijeka	3,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Hakija Iljazi for improvement of housing conditions and medicines	
Social Welfare Centre in Rijeka	2,000.00
one-off financial assistance to Djulja Neziri for improvement of living conditions (care for an elderly person)	
Social Welfare Centre in Sisak	5,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Dragan Nikolić for continued home construction (cost of building materials)	
Social Welfare Centre in Beli Manastir	5,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Zorica Balog for building a bathroom	
Social Welfare Centre in Rijeka	5,000.00
One-off financial assistance to the family of Rasim Jusufi for home repair	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	10,000.00
One-off financial assistance to the family of Arijana Huskić for home adaptation	
Social Welfare Centre in Slavonski Brod	5,000.00
One-off financial assistance to the family of Nena Lukić for roof and home repair	
Social Welfare Centre in Slavonski Brod	10,000.00
One-off financial assistance to the family of Nenad Mitrović for home construction	
Social Welfare Centre in Čakovec	5,000.00
One-off financial assistance to the family of Zlatica Ignac for completion of home adaptation	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	3,040.00
One-off financial assistance to the family of Adem Bajrić for completion of home construction	
Social Welfare Centre in Karlovac	5,000.00
One-off financial assistance to the family of Tomica Ivanišević for improvement of housing conditions	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	5,000.00
One-off financial assistance to the family of Idriz Osmanović for home reconstruction	
Social Welfare Centre in Slavonski brod	5,000.00
One-off financial assistance to the family of Nenad Nikolić for home reconstruction	
Social Welfare Centre in Sisak	15,000.00
One-off financial assistance to the family of Stanoje Todorović	

for completion of home construction	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	9,873.85
One-off financial assistance to the family of Sanela Dedić to settle utility bill arrears	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	4,000.00
One-off financial assistance to Ajdin Đemailovski to settle utility bill arrears	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	6,000.00
One-off financial assistance to the family of Vesna Fehratović to settle utility bill arrears	
Social Welfare Centre in Velika Gorica	7,008.28
One-off financial assistance to the family of Alduza Hamidi for a sewerage connection	
Social Welfare Centre in Čakovec	7,200.00
One-off financial assistance to the family of Vid Oršuš for water-supply installations	
Municipality of Pribislavec	15,000.00
One-off financial assistance to the family of Slobodan Lalić for construction and outfitting of a room and bathroom	
Social Welfare Centre Zagreb	10,000.00
One-off financial assistance to the family of Sanela Omerović for home reconstruction	
Social Welfare Centre Zagreb	15,000.00
One-off financial assistance to the family of Muharem Dedić for improvement of housing conditions	
Social Welfare Centre Zagreb	10,000.00
One-off financial assistance to the family of Irfan Huskić for improvement of housing conditions	
Social Welfare Centre Zagreb	6,628.08
One-off financial assistance to the family of Jasna Mujić to settle utility bill arrears	
Social Welfare Centre Zagreb	9,000.00
One-off financial assistance for Public Open University Zagreb tuition fees for Dino Beriša	
Social Welfare Centre Zagreb	9,750.00
One-off financial assistance for Public Open University Zagreb tuition fees for Emil Beriša	
Public Open University Zagreb	19,250.00
Part-settlement of arrears for 2009 (total amount of arrears HRK 77,000)	
Human Rights Centre, Zagreb	25,000.00
One-off financial assistance for the implementation of the Project entitled "With the Roma for the Roma"	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	10,000.00
One-off financial assistance to the family of Saša Šainovski for rent and purchase of special food for a sick child	

Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	3,000.00
One-off financial assistance to the family of Đemilja Amedovski for improvement of living conditions	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	5,000.00
One-off financial assistance to the family of Elizabeta Mustafovski for cost of medical treatment	
Social Welfare Centre in Sisak	5,000.00
One-off financial assistance to the family of Mira Nikolić for home construction	
Croatian Centre for Drama Education, Zagreb	14,460.00
Financial support to the participation of Roma students at the Eighth Theatre Camp in Pazin and for the Project entitled "Educational Drama and Theatre as Means to Promote Roma Inclusion"	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	7,262.00
One-off financial assistance to the family of Sabih Beganović for home adaptation	
Social Welfare Centre in Beli Manastir	5,000.00
One-off financial assistance to the family of Zoric Balog for building a bathroom	
Social Welfare Centre in Čakovec	4,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Dražen Ignac for roof reconstruction	
Social Welfare Centre in Čakovec	3,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Miro Ignac for purchase of roof tiles	
Social Welfare Centre in Čakovec	3,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Darinka Horvat for roof reconstruction	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	7,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Anifa Mešić for purchase of building materials	
Social Welfare Centre in Slavonski Brod	5,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Nenad Nikolić for family home rehabilitation	
Social Welfare Centre in Varaždin	10,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Ljubica Ignac and Dražen Kalanjoš for travel expenses connected with the treatment of their gravely ill child and for child care	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	3,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Emina Bajrić for care for a sick child	
Romani Ways/Romana drome Association	3,000.00
one-off financial assistance (co-funding) for expenses of the Programme entitled "Opening a shelf of Romani literature in Bjelovar"	
Social Welfare Centre in Rijeka	4,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Zulfija Selejman to part-settle water bill arrears	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	1,500.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Nexhmedin Hajrullah to settle power bill arrears	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	3,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Esmā Ahmetović for rent	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	2,500.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Sadika Osmanović to part-settle arrears owed to the power company HEP	
Social Welfare Centre in Čakovec	5,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Vesna Petrović for rent	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	2,700.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Kristina Muratović to part-settle arrears owed to the power company HEP	
Social Welfare Centre in Pula	3,000.00
one-off financial assistance to Hadža Redžep to part-settle power bill arrears	
Social Welfare Centre Čakovec – Mursko Središće Branch	5,000.00
one-off financial assistance to the family of Draga Oršuš for home construction	

In 2012, a total of HRK **742,904.82** was allocated from the Office for National Minorities budget item through the Commission on Monitoring Implementation of the National Programme for Roma, as itemised below:

Varaždin County - Municipality of Sveti Đurđ	33,700.00
Financial assistance to co-fund the construction of five homes for members	

of the Roma national minority	
Medimurje County - Town of Mursko Središće	6,000.00
Financial assistance for construction of a fence between the western side of cad. plot no. 6014/97 and road corridor in Roma settlement of Sitnice (Branko Oršoš family)	
Medimurje County - Municipality of Orehovica	253,204.82
Financial assistance to cover special requests of owners of land planned for expropriation (HRK 45,474.19), compensation to home owners for demolition based on detailed physical plan (HRK 116,855.63), studies and project documentation (HRK 66,875.00), foundation for tent (HRK 7,125.00), architectural survey (HRK 16,875.00)	
Varaždin County	95,000.00
One-off financial assistance to co-finance construction of water supply network in the Roma settlement Donje Vratno	
Sisak-Moslavina County, City of Sisak	95,000.00
One-off financial assistance to co-finance parcelization and resolution of property rights matters for the settlements of Capraške Poljane and Palanjak	
Osijek-Baranja County, City of Belišće	95,000.00
One-off financial assistance to co-finance legalization of Roma national minority buildings in settlement of Bistrinci	
Medimurje County, Municipality of Orehovica	38,500.00
One-off financial assistance to procure and install water conduits as part of IPA 2008	
Primorje-Gorski Kotar County, City of Novi Vinodolski	7,500.00
One-off financial assistance for the purpose of repair of damage caused by heavy storm on residential building in which five Roma families live	
Koprivnica-Križevci County, Municipality of Novigrad Podravski	7,500.00
One-off financial assistance to repair house that burned down in natural disaster (wildfire)	
Social Welfare Centre in Pula	20,000.00
one-off financial assistance to pay rent and utilities for the Skender Ademi's family	
Social Welfare Centre in Slavonski Brod	5,000.00
One-off financial assistance to repair family home (roof) belonging to Nenad Nikolić family	
Social Welfare Centre in Đurđevac	6,000.00
One-off financial assistance to cover costs of books and board for a student at Mostar University, Faculty of Science and Mathematics, Bojan Balog	
Medimurje County	8,200.00
one-off financial assistance to cover tuition in the Novak Public Open University for Violeta Kalanjoš to study for the vocation of road traffic technician	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	10,000.00
One-off financial assistance to cover the costs of treatment and special diet for Elvisa Ahmetović	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	5,000.00
One-off financial assistance for costs of medical treatment and special diet for legal minor Lerena Fehratović, to the family of Merime Gaši	
Social Welfare Centre in Sisak	3,000.00
One-off financial assistance for costs of medical treatment of sick child (Darija Nikolić), to the family of Zlatko Nikolić	
Social Welfare Centre in Beli Manastir	3,000.00
One-off financial assistance for costs of medical treatment of sick child (Jovana Đurđević), to the family of Dalija Đurđević	
Social Welfare Centre in Valpovo	3,000.00
One-off financial assistance for costs of medical treatment of sick child (Dubravka Petrovića), to the family of (Dubravko and Suzana Petrović)	
Social Welfare Centre in Slavonski Brod	3,000.00
One-off financial assistance for costs of medical treatment of Rajka Mitrović	
Social Welfare Centre in Pula	10,000.00
One-off financial assistance for costs of medical treatment of Naser Đemailje	
Social Welfare Centre in Slavonski Brod	10,000.00
One-off financial assistance for costs of medical treatment of legal minor child (Darko Stanković), to the family of Stanko Stanković	
Social Welfare Centre in Slavonski Brod	10,000.00
One-off financial assistance for costs of medical treatment of Milena Jovanović	

Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	4,300.00
One-off financial assistance to purchase wheelchair for Fatima Demirović (legal guardian of Biserka Demirović)	
Social Welfare Centre in Slavonski Brod	3,000.00
One-off financial assistance for costs of medical treatment of Nena Nikolić	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	3,000.00
One-off financial assistance to cover funeral costs of Sreto Aleksić for family of Suvad Aleksić	
Maslačak Kindergarten, Mursko Središće	5,000.00
One-off financial assistance to co-finance transport costs of Roma children in the 2012/2013 school year	

In 2013, a total of HRK 640,000.00 was allocated from the Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities budget item through the Commission on Monitoring Implementation of the National Strategy for Roma Inclusion, as itemised below:

Medimurje County,	175,750.00
Municipality of Orehovica	
Co-financing overhaul of landfill in Roma settlement of Orehovica (HRK 140,000.00) and co-financing of purchase and installation of water supply shafts in Roma settlement of Orehovica (HRK 35,750.00)	
Medimurje County	33,669.00
Co-financing of infrastructure construction project in the Roma settlements of Orehovica and Sitnice as part of IPA 2008 programme	
Osijek-Baranja County,	20,000.00
Municipality of Kneževi Vinogradi	
Co-financing of works on access road to Roma settlement in Kneževi Vinogradi	
Medimurje County,	5,000.00
Town of Mursko Središće	
Financing of transportation for preschool children of Roma national minority in the 2013/2014 school year	
Social Welfare Centre in Gospić	4,000.00
One-off financial assistance to the family of Milke Udorović to cover cost of repairs on residential building damaged by fire	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	4,000.00
One-off financial assistance to cover costs of repairs on house damaged in fire, paid to Bukrija Beriša family	
Social Welfare Centre in Sisak	4,204.00
One-off financial assistance to Nada Nikolić for house repairs	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	4,000.00
One-off financial assistance Avdo Nadarević to furnish housing unit damaged in fire	
Social Welfare Centre in Slavonski Brod	4,000.00
One-off financial assistance to Dragan Jovanović to renovate house	
Social Welfare Centre in Koprivnica	4,000.00
One-off financial assistance to Željko Oršoš to purchase household appliances damaged by flooding	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	4,000.00
One-off financial assistance to Hanka King to renovate residential building damaged in fire	
Social Welfare Centre in Slavonski Brod	4,000.00
One-off financial assistance to Stanka Mihajlović to renovate residential building damaged in fire	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	4,000.00
One-off financial assistance to the family of Mustafa Osmanović for storm-damaged roof	
Social Welfare Centre in Sisak	4,000.00
One-off financial assistance to Radovan Nikolić for repair of flood-damaged home	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	8,500.00
One-off financial assistance to the family of Ankica Župan for repair of home damaged by fire in the settlement of Struge	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	8,500.00
One-off financial assistance to the family of Katarina Mašić and Ratko Oršuš for repair of home damaged by fire in the settlement of Struge	

Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	8,500.00
One-off financial assistance to the family of Elvis Šečić for repair of home damaged by fire in the settlement of Struge	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	8,500.00
One-off financial assistance to Mensuri Mašić for repair of home damaged by fire in the settlement of Struge	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	8,500.00
One-off financial assistance to the family of Kemal Seferović for repair of home damaged by fire in the settlement of Struge	
Kali Sara Association for Promotion of Roma Education in Croatia	15,000.00
One-off financial assistance for flood-damaged facilities and inventory of the Association	
Social Welfare Centre in Pula	20,000.00
One-off financial assistance to the evicted family of Redžep Hadža for six months' rent	
Social Welfare Centre in Pula	20,000.00
One-off financial assistance to the evicted family of Nešat Ademi for six months' rent	
Social Welfare Centre in Slavonski Brod	4,000.00
One-off financial assistance to Dijana Destanović for costs of medical treatment	
Social Welfare Centre in Slavonski Brod	4,000.00
One-off financial assistance to Miroslav Todorović for costs of medical treatment	
Social Welfare Centre in Slavonski Brod	4,000.00
One-off financial assistance to Ostoja Mitrović for costs of medical treatment	
Social Welfare Centre in Slavonski Brod	4,000.00
One-off financial assistance to Stanko Mitrović for costs of medical treatment	
Social Welfare Centre in Beli Manastir	4,000.00
One-off financial assistance to Boško Mišković for costs of medical treatment	
Social Welfare Centre in Slavonski Brod	4,000.00
One-off financial assistance to Fekrija Gushani for costs of medical treatment	
Social Welfare Centre in Slavonski Brod	4,000.00
One-off financial assistance to Đemajl Toplica for costs of medical treatment	
Social Welfare Centre in Slavonski Brod	4,000.00
One-off financial assistance to Valentina Vasiljević for costs of medical treatment	
Social Welfare Centre in Beli Manastir	4,000.00
One-off financial assistance to Siniša Nikolić for costs of medical treatment	
Social Welfare Centre in Slavonski Brod	4,000.00
One-off financial assistance to Nenad Nikolić for costs of medical treatment of underage daughter Antonela Nikolić	
Social Welfare Centre in Slavonski Brod	4,000.00
One-off financial assistance to Rajka Mitrović for costs of medical treatment	
Social Welfare Centre in Slavonski Brod	2,500.00
One-off financial assistance to Stanka Radosavljević for costs of medical treatment	
Social Welfare Centre in Sisak	2,900.00
One-off financial assistance to Nevenka Nikolić for costs of medical treatment	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	4,000.00
One-off financial assistance to Elizabeta Mustafovska for costs of medical treatment	
Social Welfare Centre in Slavonski Brod	4,000.00
One-off financial assistance to Ratko Lukić for costs of medical treatment	
Social Welfare Centre in Beli Manastir	4,000.00
One-off financial assistance to Slavko Stanković for costs of medical treatment	
Social Welfare Centre in Slavonski Brod	4,000.00
One-off financial assistance to Dragica Stanković for costs of medical treatment	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	4,000.00
One-off financial assistance to Hasima Ibrahim for costs of medical treatment	
Social Welfare Centre in Beli Manastir	4,000.00
One-off financial assistance to Ruža Đurđević for costs of medical treatment	
Social Welfare Centre in Beli Manastir	2,500.00
One-off financial assistance to Anka Mihajlović for costs of medical treatment	
Social Welfare Centre in Beli Manastir	2,000.00
One-off financial assistance to Martina Posavec for costs of medical treatment	

Social Welfare Centre in Beli Manastir	4,000.00
One-off financial assistance to Ana Teofilović for costs of medical treatment	
Social Welfare Centre in Beli Manastir	2,500.00
One-off financial assistance to Šefkija Šečić for costs of medical treatment	
Social Welfare Centre in Beli Manastir	2,500.00
One-off financial assistance to Mira Kovač for costs of medical treatment	
Social Welfare Centre in Beli Manastir	2,500.00
One-off financial assistance to Rajfa Dafić for costs of medical treatment	
Social Welfare Centre in Beli Manastir	2,500.00
One-off financial assistance to Husnija Dafić for costs of medical treatment	
Social Welfare Centre in Slavonski Brod	1,500.00
One-off financial assistance to Nena Lukić for costs of medical treatment	
Social Welfare Centre in Beli Manastir	10,000.00
One-off financial assistance to Đulica Bogdan for costs of medical treatment of her spouse Stevan Bogdan	
Social Welfare Centre in Slavonski Brod	1,500.00
One-off financial assistance to Branko Nikolić for costs of medical treatment	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	4,000.00
One-off financial assistance to Mifailj Beriša for costs of medical treatment	
Social Welfare Centre in Novska	2,500.00
One-off financial assistance to Faruk Rajma for costs of medical treatment	
Social Welfare Centre in Sisak	10,000.00
One-off financial assistance to Ana Bogdan for costs of medical treatment	
Social Welfare Centre in Ludbreg	10,000.00
One-off financial assistance to Jelena Horvat for costs of medical treatment	
Social Welfare Centre in Rijeka	2,500.00
One-off financial assistance to Hašim Ibrahim for costs of medical treatment	
Social Welfare Centre in Pula	4,000.00
One-off financial assistance to Raif Džemali for costs of medical treatment of Naser Džemali	
Social Welfare Centre in Sisak	2,500.00
One-off financial assistance to Barica Bogdan for costs of medical treatment	
Social Welfare Centre in Beli Manastir	2,500.00
One-off financial assistance to Željka Bošković for costs of medical treatment	
Social Welfare Centre in Sisak	2,500.00
One-off financial assistance to Zlatko Nikolić for costs of medical treatment of underage Darija Nikolić	
Social Welfare Centre in Koprivnica	2,500.00
One-off financial assistance to Zlatica Oršuš for costs of medical treatment	
Social Welfare Centre in Sisak	2,500.00
One-off financial assistance to Luka Jelenić for costs of medical treatment	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	2,500.00
One-off financial assistance to Milan Golubovac for costs of medical treatment of his underage son Antonije Golubovac	
Social Welfare Centre in Slavonski Brod	2,500.00
One-off financial assistance to Stanka Mitrović for costs of medical treatment	
Social Welfare Centre in Slavonski Brod	2,500.00
One-off financial assistance to Stana Jovanović for costs of medical treatment	
Social Welfare Centre in Slavonski Brod	2,500.00
One-off financial assistance to Milan Jovanović for costs of medical treatment	
Social Welfare Centre in Slavonski Brod	2,500.00
One-off financial assistance to Srećko Mitrović for costs of medical treatment	
Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb	15,000.00
One-off financial assistance to Senada Skenderovski for costs of medical treatment of her underage son Marvin Šaban	
Social Welfare Centre in Beli Manastir	3,465.00
One-off financial assistance to the family of Ružica Đurđević to cover costs of funeral of Radivoj Đurđević	
Social Welfare Centre in Slavonski Brod	3,543.00
One-off financial assistance to the family of Đorđe Mitrović to cover costs of funeral of Desanka Mitrović	

Social Welfare Centre in Sisak	3,500.00
One-off financial assistance to the family of Marijan Crnković to cover costs of funeral of Marije Crnković	
Public Open University Zagreb	61,469.00
Tuition fees for members of the Roma national minority attending classes at the POU Zagreb	
Social Welfare Centre in Čakovec	4,000.00
One-off financial assistance Zdenka Đurđević for costs of education	
Social Welfare Centre in Čakovec	4,000.00
One-off financial assistance Miljenko Horvat for costs of education	
Social Welfare Centre in Gospić	10,000.00
One-off financial assistance to Željko Ivanišević for costs of studies	

Appendix 3. Census data on ethnicity 1971-2011 (National Bureau of Statistics)

POPULATION BY ETHNICITY, CENSUSES 1971 - 2011

3. STANOVNIŠTVO PREMA NARODNOSTI, 1971. – 2011.

	1971 Census Number		1981 Census Number		1991 Census Number		2001 Census Number		2011 Census Number	
	Popis 1971.		Popis 1981.		Popis 1991.		Popis 2001.		Popis 2011.	
Republic of Croatia	Broj	%	Broj	%	Broj	%	Broj	%	Broj	%
Croats	4.426.221	100,00	4.601.469	100,00	4.784.265	100,00	4.437.460	100,00	4.284.889	100,00
Albanians										
Austrians	3.513.647	79,38	3.454.661	75,08	3.736.356	78,10	3.977.171	89,63	3.874.321	90,42
Bosniaks ⁽¹⁾	4.175	0,09	6.006	0,13	12.032	0,25	15.082	0,34	17.513	0,41
Bulgarians	352	0,01	267	0,01	214	0,00	247	0,01	297	0,01
Montenegrins	...	...	...	...	...	...	20.755	0,47	31.479	0,73
Czechs	676	0,02	441	0,01	458	0,01	331	0,01	350	0,01
Hungarians	9.706	0,22	9.818	0,21	9.724	0,20	4.926	0,11	4.517	0,11
Macedonians	19.001	0,43	15.061	0,33	13.086	0,27	10.510	0,24	9.641	0,22
Germans	35.488	0,80	25.439	0,55	22.355	0,47	16.595	0,37	14.048	0,33
Poles	5.625	0,13	5.362	0,12	6.280	0,13	4.270	0,10	4.138	0,10
Roma	2.791	0,06	2.175	0,05	2.635	0,06	2.902	0,07	2.965	0,07
Romanians	819	0,02	758	0,02	679	0,01	567	0,01	672	0,02
Ruthenians	1.257	0,03	3.858	0,08	6.695	0,14	9.463	0,21	16.975	0,40
Slovaks	792	0,02	609	0,01	810	0,02	475	0,01	435	0,01
Slovenians	1.240	0,03	758	0,02	706	0,01	906	0,02	1.279	0,03
Serbs	3.728	0,08	3.321	0,07	3.253	0,07	2.337	0,05	1.936	0,05
Italians	6.482	0,15	6.533	0,14	5.606	0,12	4.712	0,11	4.753	0,11
Turks	32.497	0,73	25.136	0,55	22.376	0,47	13.173	0,30	10.517	0,25
Turks	626.789	14,16	531.502	11,55	581.663	12,16	201.631	4,54	186.633	4,36
Ukrainians	17.433	0,39	11.661	0,25	21.303	0,45	19.636	0,44	17.807	0,42
Vlachs	221	0,00	279	0,01	320	0,01	300	0,01	367	0,01
Jews	2.793	0,06	2.515	0,05	2.494	0,05	1.977	0,04	1.878	0,04
Others ⁽²⁾	13	0,00	16	0,00	22	0,00	12	0,00	29	0,00
Regional affiliation	2.845	0,06	316	0,01	600	0,01	576	0,01	509	0,01
Not declared	103.427	2,34	404.450	8,79	152.803	3,19	21.801	0,49	18.965	0,44
Unknown	... ³⁾	... ³⁾	8.657	0,19	45.493	0,95	9.302	0,21	27.225	0,64
Ne izjašnjavaju se	15.798	0,36	17.133	0,37	73.376	1,53	79.828	1,80	26.763	0,62
Nepoznato	18.626	0,42	64.737	1,41	62.926	1,32	17.975	0,41	8.877	0,21

Bosniaks were not declared as a national minority before the 2001 Census.

1) Pertains to all other declarations that are not included in the existing options.

2) Regional affiliation was not envisaged in the 1971 Census.

3)

Appendix 4. Population by mother tongue, censuses of 1991, 2001 and 2011
(National Bureau of Statistics)

	Popis 1991. 1991 Census		Popis 2001. 2001 Census		Popis 2011. 2011 Census		
	Broj Number	%	Broj Number	%	Broj Number	%	
Republika Hrvatska	4.784.265	100,00	4.437.460	100,00	4.284.889	100,00	Republic of Croatia
Hrvatski	3.922.725	81,99	4.265.081	96,12	4.096.305	95,60	Croatian
Hrvatsko-srpski	166.837	3,49	2.054	0,05	3.059	0,07	Croato-Serbian
Albanski	12.735	0,27	14.621	0,33	17.069	0,40	Albanian
Bosanski	6.933	0,14	9.197	0,21	16.856	0,39	Bosnian
Bugarski	355	0,01	265	0,01	293	0,01	Bulgarian
Crnogorski	528	0,01	460	0,01	876	0,02	Montenegrin
Češki	10.378	0,22	7.178	0,16	6.292	0,15	Czech
Mađarski	19.684	0,41	12.650	0,29	10.231	0,24	Hungarian
Makedonski	5.462	0,11	3.534	0,08	3.519	0,08	Macedonian
Njemački	3.586	0,07	3.013	0,07	2.986	0,07	German
Poljski	627	0,01	536	0,01	639	0,01	Polish
Romski	7.657	0,16	7.860	0,18	14.369	0,34	Romani
Rumunjski	2.118	0,04	1.205	0,03	955	0,02	Romanian
Ruski	746	0,02	1.080	0,02	1.592	0,04	Russian
Rusinski	2.845	0,06	1.828	0,04	1.472	0,03	Ruthenian
Slovački	5.265	0,11	3.993	0,09	3.792	0,09	Slovak
Slovenski	19.341	0,40	11.872	0,27	9.220	0,22	Slovenian
Srpski	207.300	4,33	44.629	1,01	52.879	1,23	Serbian
Srpsko-hrvatski	288.578	6,03	4.961	0,11	7.822	0,18	Serbo-Croatian
Talijanski	26.580	0,56	20.521	0,46	18.573	0,43	Italian
Turski	492	0,01	347	0,01	342	0,01	Turkish
Ukrajinski	1.430	0,03	1.027	0,02	1.008	0,02	Ukrainian
Vlaški	129	0,00	7	0,00	14	0,00	Vlach
Hebrejski	23	0,00	8	0,00	30	0,00	Hebrew
Ostali jezici	7.496	0,16	2.824	0,06	5.367	0,13	Other languages
Nepoznato	64.415	1,35	16.709	0,38	9.329	0,22	Unknown

Appendix 5. Population by mother tongue– detailed classification –2011 Census
(National Bureau of Statistics)

Materinski jezik	Mother tongue	Total
Republika Hrvatska	Republic of Croatia	4,284,889
Hrvatski	Croatian	4,096,305
Hrvatsko-srpski	Croato-Serbian	3,059
Albanski	Albanian	17,069
Bosanski	Bosnian	16,856
Bugarski	Bulgarian	293
Crnogorski	Montenegrin	876
Češki	Czech	6,292
Mađarski	Hungarian	10,231
Makedonski	Macedonian	3,519
Njemački	German	2,986
Poljski	Polish	639
Romski	Romani	14,369
Rumunjski	Romanian	955
Ruski	Russian	1,592
Rusinski	Ruthenian	1,472
Slovački	Slovak	3,792
Slovenski	Slovenian	9,220
Srpski	Serbian	52,879
Srpsko-hrvatski	Serbo-Croatian	7,822
Talijanski	Italian	18,573
Turski	Turkish	342
Ukrajinski	Ukrainian	1,008
Vlaški	Vlach	14
Hebrejski	Hebrew	30
Flamanski	Flemish	41
Bjeloruski	Belarusian	26
Danski	Danish	21
Engleski	English	1,644
Finski	Finnish	31
Francuski	French	522
Irski	Irish	2
Nizozemski	Dutch	206
Norveški	Norwegian	23
Portugalski	Portuguese	130
Španjolski	Spanish	477
Švedski	Swedish	65
Grčki	Greek	85

Materinski jezik	Mother tongue	Total
Litavski	Lithuanian	18
Letonski	Latvian	15
Estonski	Estonian	13
Moldavski	Moldavian	54
Goranski	Goranski	405
Arapski	Arabic	501
Armenski	Armenian	23
Hindi	Hindi	27
Kineski	Chinese	495
Japanski	Japanese	50
Korejski	Korean	23
Perzijski	Persian	25
Gruzijjski	Georgian	19
Filipinski/tagalog	Filipino/tagalog	53
Ostali jezici	Other languages	373
Nepoznato	Unknown	9,329

Appendix 6. Overview of funds allocated to national minority associations and institutions from the Central Budget of the Republic of Croatia through the Council for National Minorities on state level in the 2009-2013 period

	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>TOTAL 2009 - 2013</i>
I. ALBANIANS						
<i>1. UNION OF ALBANIAN COMMUNITIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA, ZAGREB</i>	745.000,00	600.000,00	567.000,00	455.000,00	745.000,00	3.112.000,00
<i>2. QUEEN TEUTA ALBANIAN WOMEN'S CLUB, Zagreb</i>	79.000,00	95.000,00	92.000,00	112.000,00	90.000,00	468.000,00
<i>3. FORUM OF ALBANIAN INTELLECTUALS IN CROATIA</i>	152.000,00	162.000,00	183.000,00	172.000,00	108.000,00	777.000,00
<i>4. SHKENDIJA ZAGREB</i>		88.000,00	90.000,00	103.000,00	85.000,00	366.000,00
ALBANIANS TOTAL:	976.000,00	945.000,00	932.000,00	842.000,00	753.000,00	4.448.000,00
II. BOSNIAKS						
<i>1. PREPOROD CULTURE SOCIETY OF BOSNIAKS IN CROATIA, ZAGREB</i>	750.000,00	710.000,00	693.000,00	715.000,00	745.000,00	3.613.000,00
<i>2. BOSNIAK NATIONAL COMMUNITY OF CROATIA</i>	56.000,00	95.000,00	94.000,00	115.000,00	50.000,00	410.000,00
<i>3. BOSNIAK NATIONAL COMMUNITY OF CROATIA,</i>						

<i>SISAK-MOSLAVINA COUNTY</i>	85.000,00	67.000,00	64.000,00	101.000,00	95.000,00	412.000,00
<i>4. BOSNIAK NATIONAL COMMUNITY OF</i>						
<i>PRIMORJE-GORSKI KOTAR COUNTY</i>	57.000,00	65.000,00	64.000,00	35.000,00	30.000,00	251.000,00
<i>5. BOSNA CULTURE CLUB OF ISTRIA COUNTY</i>	35.000,00	45.000,00	45.000,00			125.000,00
<i>6. NUR BOSNIAK CULTURE CLUB, SISAK</i>	80.000,00	100.000,00	102.000,00	70.000,00	60.000,00	412.000,00
<i>7. BEHAR BOSNIAK CULTURE CLUB, GUNJA</i>	65.000,00	70.000,00	70.000,00	75.000,00	60.000,00	340.000,00
<i>8. SELAM CULTURE CLUB, DUBROVNIK</i>	74.000,00	80.000,00	74.000,00	80.000,00	47.000,00	355.000,00
<i>9. SEVDAH CULTURE CLUB, ZAGREB</i>	116.000,00	65.000,00	70.000,00	75.000,00	72.000,00	398.000,00
<i>10. BOSNIAK NATIONAL COMMUNITY IN CITY OF ZAGREB AND ZAGREB COUNTY</i>	403.000,00	382.000,00	376.000,00	396.000,00	360.000,00	1.917.000,00
<i>11. NATIONAL COMMUNITY OF BOSNIAKS OF ISTRIA, PULA</i>	25.000,00	30.000,00	30.000,00	30.000,00	35.000,00	150.000,00
<i>12. UNION OF BOSNIAK ASSOCIATIONS</i>	331.000,00	250.000,00	210.000,00	220.000,00	180.000,00	1.191.000,00
<i>14. BOSNIAK NATIONAL COMMUNITY OF ZADAR COUNTY</i>	30.000,00	47.000,00	38.000,00	30.000,00	50.000,00	195.000,00
<i>15. LILJAN BOSNIAK CULTURE CLUB, DRENOVCI</i>		35.000,00	40.000,00	45.000,00	85.000,00	205.000,00
<i>16. PREPOROD CULTURE SOCIETY OF BOSNIAKS, DUBROVNIK</i>			30.000,00	13.000,00	27.000,00	70.000,00
<i>17. BOSNA CULTURE CLUB OF ISTRIA COUNTY</i>					20.000,00	20.000,00
BOSNIAKS TOTAL:	2.107.000,00	2.041.000,00	2.000.000,00	2.000.000,00	1.916.000,00	10.064.000,00

III. BULGARIANS						
<i>1. NATIONAL COMMUNITY OF BULGARIANS IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA, ZAGREB</i>	88.000,00	98.000,00	100.000,00	105.000,00	100.000,00	491.000,00
BULGARIANS TOTAL:	88.000,00	98.000,00	100.000,00	105.000,00	100.000,00	491.000,00
IV. MONTENEGRINS						
<i>1. NATIONAL COMMUNITY OF MONTENEGRINS OF CROATIA, ZAGREB</i>	841.000,00	775.000,00	765.000,00	773.000,00	689.000,00	3.843.000,00
<i>2. UNION OF MONTENEGRIN ASSOCIATIONS OF CROATIA</i>						
<i>3. MONTENEGRO-MONTENEGRINA DEMOCRATIC UNION OF OSIJEK-BARANJA COUNTY, OSIJEK</i>		25.000,00	25.000,00	30.000,00		80.000,00
<i>4. COMMUNITY OF MONTENEGRINS OF PRIMORJE- GORSKI KOTAR COUNTY</i>		20.000,00	20.000,00			40.000,00
<i>5. MONTENEGRO-MONTENEGRINA CULTURE CLUB AND CLUB OF FRIENDS OF MONTENEGRO IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA, BELI MANASTIR</i>				7.000,00	10.000,00	17.000,00
<i>MONTENEGRO-MONTENEGRINA CULTURE SOCIETY, OSIJEK</i>					35.000,00	35.000,00
MONTENEGRINS TOTAL:	841.000,00	820.000,00	810.000,00	810.000,00	734.000,00	4.015.000,00

V. CZECHS						
<i>1. JEDNOTA PUBLISHERS, DARUVAR</i>	2.112.000,00	1.984.680,00	1.960.000,00	1.954.000,00	1.837.000,00	9.847.680,00
<i>2. CZECH ALLIANCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA, DARUVAR</i>	1.782.000,00	1.790.980,00	1.766.000,00	1.772.000,00	1.696.000,00	8.806.980,00
CZECHS TOTAL:	3.894.000,00	3.775.660,00	3.726.000,00	3.726.000,00	3.533.000,00	18.654.660,00
VI. HUNGARIANS						
<i>1. DEMOCRATIC UNION OF HUNGARIANS OF CROATIA, OSIJEK</i>	2.146.000,00	2.005.000,00	2.130.000,00	1.705.000,00	1.652.000,00	9.638.000,00
<i>2. UNION OF HUNGARIAN ASSOCIATIONS, ZAGREB</i>	2.626.000,00	2.615.000,00	2.438.000,00	2.863.000,00	2.750.000,00	13.292.000,00
HUNGARIANS TOTAL:	4.772.000,00	4.620.000,00	4.568.000,00	4.568.000,00	4.402.000,00	22.930.000,00
VII. MACEDONIANS						
<i>1. COMMUNITY OF MACEDONIANS IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA, ZAGREB</i>	833.500,00	785.000,00	773.000,00	773.000,00	721.000,00	3.885.500,00
<i>2. KRISTE MISIRKOV MACEDONIAN CULTURE CLUB, ZAGREB</i>	30.000,00	35.000,00	35.000,00	35.000,00	33.000,00	168.000,00
MACEDONIANS TOTAL:	863.500,00	820.000,00	808.000,00	808.000,00	754.000,00	4.053.500,00
	2009.	2010.	2011.	2012.	2013.	

VIII. GERMANS AND AUSTRIANS						
<i>1. COMMUNITY OF GERMANS IN CROATIA, ZAGREB</i>	162.000,00	160.000,00	162.000,00	162.000,00	145.000,00	791.000,00
<i>2. UNION OF GERMANS AND AUSTRIANS OF CROATIA, OSIJEK</i>	30.500,00	30.000,00				60.500,00
<i>3. NATIONAL UNION OF GERMANS OF CROATIA, ZAGREB</i>	30.500,00	30.000,00	30.000,00	30.000,00	20.000,00	140.500,00
<i>4. ASSOCIATION OF GERMANS AND AUSTRIANS, VUKOVAR</i>	21.000,00	27.000,00	32.000,00	32.000,00	32.000,00	144.000,00
<i>5. GERMAN PEOPLE'S UNION – NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF</i>						
<i>DANUBIAN SWABIANS IN CROATIA, OSIJEK</i>	578.000,00	562.000,00	573.000,00	573.000,00	535.000,00	2.821.000,00
<i>5 ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRIANS IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA</i>	13.000,00					13.000,00
GERMANS AND AUSTRIANS TOTAL:	835.000,00	809.000,00	797.000,00	797.000,00	732.000,00	3.970.000,00
IX. POLES						
<i>1. MIKOLAJ KOPERNIK POLISH CULTURE ASSOCIATION, ZAGREB</i>	73.000,00	73.000,00	77.000,00	85.000,00	83.000,00	391.000,00
<i>2. FRYDERYK CHOPIN POLISH CULTURE ASSOCIATION, RIJEKA</i>	15.000,00	25.000,00				40.000,00
<i>3. POLENEZ POLISH CULTURAL ASSOCIATION, KAŠTEL STARI</i>			15.000,00	16.000,00	13.000,00	44.000,00
POLES TOTAL:	88.000,00	98.000,00	92.000,00	101.000,00	96.000,00	475.000,00

X. ROMA						
<i>1. ROMA ASSOCIATION OF ZAGREB AND ZAGREB COUNTY</i>	190.000,00	190.000,00	185.000,00	120.000,00	85.000,00	770.000,00
<i>2. DARDA ROMA CULTURE CLUB, DARDA</i>	75.000,00	70.000,00	83.000,00	85.000,00	73.000,00	386.000,00
<i>3. ASSOCIATION OF ROMA YOUTH OF CROATIA</i>	15.000,00	10.000,00	8.000,00	10.000,00	8.000,00	51.000,00
<i>4. ROMA YOUTH CLUB OF CROATIA</i>	15.000,00	10.000,00	8.000,00	10.000,00	8.000,00	51.000,00
<i>5. ROMA WAYS ASSOCIATION OF CROATIA, ZAGREB</i>		36.000,00	40.000,00	60.000,00	35.000,00	171.000,00
<i>6. WORLD ORGANIZATION OF ROMA CHARITY IN CROATIA, ZAGREB</i>	50.000,00	50.000,00	43.000,00	90.000,00	110.000,00	343.000,00
<i>7. ROMANO CENTRO ROMA CULTURE CENTRE, ZAGREB</i>	120.000,00					120.000,00
<i>8. ASSOCIATION OF BAYASH ROMA OF MEĐIMURJE COUNTY, ČAKOVEC</i>	15.000,00	10.000,00				25.000,00
<i>9. LUNA ROMA FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION, BELI MANASTIR</i>	40.000,00	35.000,00	28.000,00			103.000,00
<i>10. SAN ROMA CULTURE CLUB, SLAVONSKI BROD</i>	25.000,00					25.000,00
<i>11. EVROPA NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ROMA, - NAŠICE</i>	50.000,00	10.000,00				60.000,00
<i>12. BAYASH UMBRELLA UNION – PREBISLAVAC/ ČAKOVEC</i>	15.000,00					15.000,00
<i>13. ROMA HEART CULTURE CLUB, ZAGREB</i>	65.000,00	75.000,00	72.000,00	45.000,00	28.000,00	285.000,00

<i>14. ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND BETTER LIFE FOR ROMA, SISAK</i>	25.000,00	10.000,00	8.000,00	10.000,00	8.000,00	61.000,00
<i>15. ASSOCIATION OF ROMA OF MEĐIMURJE, PODTUREN</i>	34.000,00					34.000,00
<i>17. ĐELEM ĐELEM ROMA CULTURE CLUB, BELI MANASTIR</i>	40.000,00	15.000,00	8.000,00			63.000,00
<i>18. LUDAR ASSOCIATION OF ROMA OF ROMANIAN ORIGIN, SLAVONSKI BROD</i>	30.000,00	7.000,00	12.000,00			49.000,00
<i>19. BLACK PEARLS CULTURE CLUB, SISAK</i>	25.000,00					25.000,00
<i>21. AMAL ROMA ASSOCIATION OF ROMA FRIENDS, ZAGREB</i>	15.000,00	10.000,00	8.000,00	10.000,00		43.000,00
<i>22. NETWORK OF ROMA ASSOCIATIONS, ZAGREB</i>	330.000,00					330.000,00
<i>23. ROMANI SOUL CULTURE CLUB, ZAGREB</i>	20.000,00	36.000,00	40.000,00			96.000,00
<i>24. ASSOCIATION OF ELDERLY AND INFIRM ROMA OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA</i>	0,00	10.000,00	8.000,00		8.000,00	26.000,00
<i>25. BAYASH ROMA ASSOCIATION OF SLAVONSKI BROD</i>	15.000,00					15.000,00
<i>26. ROMA COUNSELLING, EDUCATION AND CULTURE CENTRE, BJELOVAR</i>	40.000,00					40.000,00
<i>27. KALI SARA ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF ROMA EDUCATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA</i>	35.000,00	75.000,00	80.000,00	150.000,00	180.000,00	520.000,00
<i>28. ASSOCIATION OF BAYASH ROMA OF SISAK-MOSLAVINA COUNTY</i>	15.000,00	24.000,00	22.000,00	15.000,00	8.000,00	84.000,00
<i>29. ASSOCIATION OF ROMA OF BELI MANASTIR/BARANJA</i>	30.000,00	35.000,00	8.000,00			73.000,00

30. ROMA CULTURE CENTRE, SISAK	25.000,00	28.000,00	8.000,00	30.000,00	30.000,00	121.000,00
33. ROMA FOR ROMA ASSOCIATION, ZAGREB		156.000,00				156.000,00
38. CHAPLIN THEATRE/THEATRE OF THE ROMA NATIONAL MINORITY, RIJEKA	25.000,00	25.000,00				50.000,00
40. ASSOCIATION OF ROMA OF BJELOVAR-BILOGORA COUNTY	15.000,00					15.000,00
50. ASSOCIATION FOR A BETTER TOMORROW, KOTORIBA	15.000,00					15.000,00
51. MARINA ASSOCIATION FOR YOUTH	15.000,00					15.000,00
52. ASSOCIATION FOR ROMA WELL-BEING, GORIČAN	15.000,00	22.000,00	21.000,00			58.000,00
53. ROMA CULTURE CENTRE OF ISTRIA AND ISTRIA COUNTY	30.000,00	34.000,00	34.000,00	10.000,00		108.000,00
54. ROMANI EVLIJKA/ROMA ANGELS CULTURE CLUB, VINKOVCI	25.000,00					25.000,00
55. GOLDEN ROMANI HEART ASSOCIATION	10.000,00					10.000,00
56. BREAD COALITION OF ROMA OF CROATIA, ZAGREB	15.000,00					15.000,00
57. ROMA RIGHTS, SISAK	15.000,00	10.000,00	28.000,00	15.000,00	28.000,00	96.000,00
58. ROMANI NIGHT ASSOCIATION OF ROMA, ZAGREB	15.000,00					15.000,00
59. ROMA ART CENTRE, ZAGREB		80.000,00				80.000,00
60. BETTER FUTURE ROMA WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION, ZAGREB		156.000,00	170.000,00	100.000,00	88.000,00	514.000,00
61. ROMANI HEART WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION, JAGODNJAK		34.000,00	43.000,00		16.000,00	93.000,00
62. ROMANI UNITY ROMA COMMUNITY OF PRIMORJE-GORSKI KOTAR COUNTY, RIJEKA		35.000,00	28.000,00	25.000,00	8.000,00	96.000,00

63. TERNE ROMANE LULUĐ ASSOCIATION OF ROMA OF ISTRIA		35.000,00				35.000,00
64. KUTINA PEARLS CULTURE CLUB, KUTINA			23.000,00	20.000,00	8.000,00	51.000,00
65. ASSOCIATION OF BARANJA ROMA, BELI MANASTIR			8.000,00	20.000,00	18.000,00	46.000,00
66. UMBRELLA COMMUNITY OF BAYASHI OF CROATIA, PRIBISLAVEC			8.000,00			8.000,00
67. BAYASHI ASSOCIATION OF CROATIAN ROMA CATHOLICS, ĐURĐEVAC			8.000,00			8.000,00
68. UNION OF ROMA OF CROATIA, ZAGREB			30.000,00			30.000,00
69. JOLLY ROMA CULTURE CLUB, SESVETE					10.000,00	10.000,00
70. ASSOCIATION OF BAYASHI ROMA, KUTINA					8.000,00	8.000,00
71. COMMUNITY OF BOSNIAN ROMA IN CROATIA, ZAGREB					30.000,00	30.000,00
ROMA TOTAL:	1.549.000,00	1.333.000,00	1.070.000,00	825.000,00	795.000,00	5.572.000,00
XI. RUSSIANS						
1. NATIONAL COMMUNITY OF RUSSIANS OF CROATIA, ZAGREB	70.000,00	61.000,00	91.000,00	91.000,00	83.000,00	396.000,00
2. RUSSIAN CULTURE CIRCLE – AFFIRMATION SOCIETY	12.000,00	25.000,00				37.000,00
3. KALINKA, ČAKOVEC		14.000,00	30.000,00	34.000,00	42.000,00	120.000,00
RUSSIANS TOTAL:	82.000,00	100.000,00	121.000,00	125.000,00	125.000,00	553.000,00

XII. RUTHENIANS AND UKRAINIANS						
<i>1. UNION OF RUTHENIANS AND UKRAINIANS</i>						
<i>IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA, VUKOVAR</i>	1.110.000,00	927.000,00	906.000,00	886.000,00	822.000,00	4.651.000,00
<i>2. UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY IN THE Rock</i>	572.000,00	755.000,00	736.000,00	732.000,00	726.000,00	3.521.000,00
<i>3. UKRAINIAN CULTURE SOCIETY, ZAGREB</i>	90.000,00	32.000,00	32.000,00	21.000,00	21.000,00	196.000,00
<i>4. SOCIETY OF RUTHENIANS IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA</i>	20.000,00	20.000,00				40.000,00
<i>5. RUSNAK SOCIETY OF RUTHENIANS IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA, PETROVCI</i>				15.000,00	11.000,00	26.000,00
RUTHENIANS AND UKRAINIANS TOTAL	1.792.000,00	1.734.000,00	1.689.000,00	1.654.000,00	1.580.000,00	8.449.000,00
XIII. SLOVAKS						
<i>1. UNION OF SLOVAKS, NAŠICE</i>	1.749.000,00	1.695.000,00	1.675.000,00	1.675.000,00	1.563.000,00	8.357.000,00
SLOVAKS TOTAL:	1.749.000,00	1.695.000,00	1.675.000,00	1.675.000,00	1.563.000,00	8.357.000,00
XIV. SLOVENIANS						
<i>1. UNION OF SLOVENIAN ASSOCIATIONS</i>						
<i>IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA, ZAGREB</i>	864.000,00	835.900,00	822.000,00	822.000,00	770.000,00	4.113.900,00
SLOVENIANS TOTAL:	864.000,00	835.900,00	822.000,00	822.000,00	770.000,00	4.113.900,00
XV. SERBS						
<i>1. PROSVJETA SERBIAN CULTURE SOCIETY, Zagreb</i>	5.630.000,00	5.360.000,00	5.295.000,00	5.177.000,00	4.914.000,00	26.376.000,00

<i>2. SERBIAN DEMOCRATIC FORUM, ZAGREB</i>	840.000,00	740.000,00	730.000,00	715.000,00	695.000,00	3.720.000,00
<i>3. SERBIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL, ZAGREB /NATIONAL COORDINATING BODY/</i>	4.465.000,00	4.385.000,00	4.333.000,00	4.320.000,00	4.240.000,00	21.743.000,00
<i>4. JOINT COUNCIL OF MUNICIPALITIES, VUKOVAR</i>	520.000,00	715.000,00	700.000,00	834.000,00	781.000,00	3.550.000,00
<i>5. ĐURĐEVDAN SERBIAN CULTURAL, ARTISTIC AND SPIRITUAL SOCIETY IN DREŽNICA</i>	94.000,00	90.000,00	85.000,00	82.000,00	73.000,00	424.000,00
<i>6. PRIVREDNIK SERBIAN ECONOMIC SOCIETY, ZAGREB</i>	210.000,00	150.000,00	150.000,00	205.000,00	185.000,00	900.000,00
<i>7. NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SERBS, ZAGREB</i>						
<i>8. INFORMATION SUPPORT CENTRE, ZAGREB</i>						
SERBS TOTAL:	11.759.000,00	11.440.000,00	11.293.000,00	11.333.000,00	10.888.000,00	56.713.000,00

XVI. ITALIANS						
<i>1. EDIT PUBLISHERS, RIJEKA</i>	6.296.000,00	6.100.000,00	6.000.000,00	6.000.000,00	5.910.000,00	30.306.000,00
<i>2. CENTRE FOR HISTORIC RESEARCH, ROVINJ</i>	911.000,00	885.000,00	895.000,00	895.000,00	860.000,00	4.446.000,00
<i>3. ITALIAN DRAMA, RIJEKA</i>	701.000,00	680.000,00	672.000,00	672.000,00	640.000,00	3.365.000,00
<i>IVAN ZAJC CROATIAN NATIONAL THEATRE</i>						
<i>4. ITALIAN UNION, RIJEKA</i>	993.000,00	962.000,00	953.000,00	953.000,00	905.000,00	4.766.000,00
ITALIANS TOTAL:	8.901.000,00	8.627.000,00	8.520.000,00	8.520.000,00	8.315.000,00	42.883.000,00
XVII. JEWS						
<i>1. JEWISH COMMUNITY, ZAGREB</i>	370.000,00	367.000,00	367.000,00	375.000,00	385.000,00	1.864.000,00
<i>2. MIROSLAV ŠALOM FREIBERGER CULTURE SOCIETY, ZAGREB</i>	84.000,00	80.000,00	80.000,00	80.000,00	75.000,00	399.000,00
<i>3. ASSOCIATION OF HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS, ZAGREB</i>	22.000,00	20.000,00	20.000,00	25.000,00	30.000,00	117.000,00
<i>4. LIRA MIXED CHOIR, ZAGREB</i>	92.000,00	75.000,00	70.000,00	45.000,00		282.000,00
<i>5. BET ISRAEL JEWISH RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY</i>						
<i>IN CROATIA</i>	178.000,00	172.000,00	178.000,00	178.000,00	171.000,00	877.000,00
<i>6. BEJAHAD JEWISH CULTURE SCENE</i>	63.000,00	60.000,00	60.000,00	65.000,00	60.000,00	308.000,00
<i>7. CENDO RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION CENTRE, ZAGREB</i>	26.000,00	8.000,00	15.000,00	22.000,00	26.000,00	97.000,00
<i>8. JEWISH COMMUNITY IN OSIJEK</i>						
<i>9. MENORA JEWISH ORGANISATION, ZAGREB</i>		25.000,00				25.000,00
JEWS TOTAL:	835.000,00	807.000,00	790.000,00	790.000,00	747.000,00	3.969.000,00

TOTAL:	41.995.500,00	40.598.560,00	39.813.000,00	39.501.000,00	37.803.000,00	199.711.060,00
CREATION OF CONDITIONS FOR EXERCISE OF CULTURAL AUTONOMY						
CZECHS	120.000,00	70.000,00	80.000,00	70.000,00		340.000,00
ROMA	300.000,00	220.000,00	300.000,00	470.000,00	550.000,00	1.840.000,00
SLOVAKS	100.000,00	60.000,00	30.000,00	68.000,00		258.000,00
SERBS	250.000,00	90.000,00	30.000,00	95.000,00		465.000,00
JEWS	50.000,00		20.000,00	25.000,00		95.000,00
BOSNIAKS				40.000,00		40.000,00
MONTENEGRINS						
UKRAINIANS AND RUTHENIANS		50.000,00	70.000,00	70.000,00		190.000,00
MACEDONIANS		50.000,00	30.000,00	50.000,00		130.000,00
HUNGARIANS		150.000,00	150.000,00	155.000,00		455.000,00
GERMANS			15.000,00	70.000,00		85.000,00
SLOVENIANS				17.000,00		17.000,00
RUSSIANS				20.000,00		20.000,00
POLES				20.000,00		20.000,00
TOTAL ALLOCATIONS:	820.000,00	740.000,00	725.000,00	1.170.000,00	550.000,00	4.005.000,00
DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION AND CAPACITY						

BUILDING OF NATIONAL MINORITY COUNCIL MEMBERS AND REPRESENTATIVES	220.000,00	70.000,00	80.000,00	100.000,00	90.000,00	560.000,00
COMMON PROGRAMMES	220.000,00	142.740,00	150.564,00	150.318,00	129.240,00	792.862,00
MINORITY FORUM BIMONTHLY PUBLICATION						
<i>for national minority councils and representatives</i>	265.000,00	267.500,00	252.500,00	70.000,00	41.000,00	896.000,00
COUNCIL'S WEB SITE	50.000,00	25.000,00	20.000,00	20.000,00	20.000,00	135.000,00
TRANSFRONTIER CO-OPERATION with bodies of international organisations and institutions dealing with national minority issues and the relevant bodies of countries of origin of persons belonging to national minorities in the Republic of Croatia			40.254,00	70.000,00	30.000,00	140.254,00
PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGNS FOR ELECTIONS OF NATIONAL MINORITY COUNCILS AND REPRESENTATIVES			255.000,00			255.000,00
GRAND TOTAL:	43.590.000,00	41.843.800,00	41.336.318,00	41.081.318,00	38.663.240,00	206.514.676,00
€:	5.735.526,32	5.505.763,16	5.438.989,21	5.405.436,58	5.087.268,42	27.172.983,68

Appendix 7. Ratification Instrument for the Ratification of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Pursuant to Article 89 of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia, I hereby issue the following

DECISION

PROMULGATING THE RATIFICATION INSTRUMENT OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES

I hereby proclaim this Ratification Instrument of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, adopted by the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Republic of Croatia at the session of 19 September 1997.

Number: 081-97-1512/I
Zagreb, 29 September 1997.

President of the Republic of Croatia
Franjo Tuđman, Ph.D. (*signed*)

RATIFICATION INSTRUMENT OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES

Article 1

The Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, done at Strasbourg on the 10th day of November 1994 in English and French, with both texts deemed equally authoritative, is hereby confirmed.

Article 2

The text of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in its English original and translation into the Croatian language reads as follows:

FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES

The member States of the Council of Europe and the other States, signatories to the present framework Convention,

Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve greater unity between its members for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage;

Considering that one of the methods by which that aim is to be pursued is the maintenance and further realisation of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

Wishing to follow-up the Declaration of the Heads of State and Government of the member States of the Council of Europe adopted in Vienna on 9 October 1993;

Being resolved to protect within their respective territories the existence of national minorities;

Considering that the upheavals of European history have shown that the protection of national minorities is essential to stability, democratic security and peace in this continent;

Considering that a pluralist and genuinely democratic society should not only respect the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of each person belonging to a national minority, but also create appropriate conditions enabling them to express, preserve and develop this identity;

Considering that the creation of a climate of tolerance and dialogue is necessary to enable cultural diversity to be a source and a factor, not of division, but of enrichment for each society; Considering that the realisation of a tolerant and prosperous Europe does not depend solely on co-operation between States but also requires transfrontier co-operation between local and regional authorities without prejudice to the constitution and territorial integrity of each State;

Having regard to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and the Protocols thereto;

Having regard to the commitments concerning the protection of national minorities in United Nations conventions and declarations and in the documents of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, particularly the Copenhagen Document of 29 June 1990;

Being resolved to define the principles to be respected and the obligations which flow from them, in order to ensure, in the member States and such other States as may become Parties to the present instrument, the effective protection of national minorities and of the rights and freedoms of persons belonging to those minorities, within the rule of law, respecting the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of states;

Being determined to implement the principles set out in the framework Convention through national legislation and appropriate governmental policies,

Have agreed as follows:

SECTION I

Article 1

ACFC/SR/IV(2014)012

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

Article 2

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

Article 3

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

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

SECTION II

Article 4

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

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

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

Article 5

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

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

Article 6

1 The Parties shall encourage a spirit of tolerance and intercultural dialogue and take effective measures to promote mutual respect and understanding and co-operation among all persons living on their territory, irrespective of those persons' ethnic,

cultural, linguistic or religious identity, in particular in the fields of education, culture and the media.

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

Article 7

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

Article 8

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

Article 9

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

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

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

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

Article 10

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

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

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

Article 11

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

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

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

Article 12

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

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

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

Article 13

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

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

Article 14

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

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

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

Article 15

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

Article 16

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

Article 17

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

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

Article 18

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

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

Article 19

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

SECTION III

Article 20

In the exercise of the rights and freedoms flowing from the principles enshrined in the present framework Convention, any person belonging to a national minority shall respect the national legislation and the rights of others, in particular those of persons belonging to the majority or to other national minorities.

Article 21

Nothing in the present framework Convention shall be interpreted as implying any right to engage in any activity or perform any act contrary to the fundamental principles of international law and in particular of the sovereign equality, territorial integrity and political independence of States.

Article 22

Nothing in the present framework Convention shall be construed as limiting or derogating from any of human rights and fundamental freedoms which may be ensured under the laws of any Contracting Party or under any other agreement to which it is a Party.

Article 23

The rights and freedoms flowing from the principles enshrined in the present framework Convention, in so far as they are the subject of a corresponding provision in the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms or in the Protocols thereto, shall be understood so as to conform to the latter provisions.

SECTION IV

Article 24

1 The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe shall monitor the implementation of this framework Convention by the Contracting Parties.

2 The Parties which are not members of the Council of Europe shall participate in the implementation mechanism, according to modalities to be determined.

Article 25

1 Within a period of one year following the entry into force of this framework Convention in respect of a Contracting Party, the latter shall transmit to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe full information on the legislative and other measures taken to give effect to the principles set out in this framework Convention.

2 Thereafter, each Party shall transmit to the Secretary, General on a periodical basis and whenever the Committee of Ministers so requests any further information of relevance to the implementation of this framework Convention.

3 The Secretary General shall forward to the Committee of Ministers the information transmitted under the terms of this Article.

Article 26

1 In evaluating the adequacy of the measures taken by the Parties to give effect to the principles set out in this framework Convention the Committee of Ministers shall be assisted by an advisory committee, the members of which shall have recognised expertise in the field of the protection of national minorities.

2 The composition of this advisory committee and its procedure shall be determined by the Committee of Ministers within a period of one year following the entry into force of this framework Convention.

SECTION V

Article 26

1 In evaluating the adequacy of the measures taken by the Parties to give effect to the principles set out in this framework Convention the Committee of Ministers shall be assisted by an advisory committee, the members of which shall have recognised expertise in the field of the protection of national minorities.

2 The composition of this advisory committee and its procedure shall be determined by the Committee of Ministers within a period of one year following the entry into force of this framework Convention.

SECTION V

Article 27

This framework Convention shall be open for signature by the member States of the Council of Europe. Up until the date when the Convention enters into force, it shall also be open for signature by any other State so invited by the Committee of Ministers. It is subject to ratification, acceptance or approval. Instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval shall be deposited with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

Article 28

1 This framework Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of three months after the date on which twelve member States of the Council of Europe have expressed their consent to be bound by the Convention in accordance with the provisions of Article 27.

2 In respect of any member State which subsequently expresses its consent to be bound by it, the framework Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of three months after the date of the deposit of the instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval.

Article 29

1 After the entry into force of this framework Convention and after consulting the Contracting States, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe may invite to accede to the Convention, by a decision taken by the majority provided for in Article 20. d of the Statute of the Council of Europe, any non-member State of the Council of Europe which, invited to sign in accordance with the provisions of Article 27, has not yet done so, and any other non-member State.

2 In respect of any acceding State, the framework Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of three months after the date of the deposit of the instrument of accession with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

Article 30

1 Any State may, at the time of signature or when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, specify the territory or territories for whose international relations it is responsible to which this framework Convention shall apply.

2 Any State may at any later date, by a declaration addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, extend the application of this framework Convention to any other territory specified in the declaration. In respect of such territory the framework Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of three months after the date of receipt of such declaration by the Secretary General.

3 Any declaration made under the two preceding paragraphs may, in respect of any territory specified in such declaration, be withdrawn by a notification addressed to the Secretary General. The withdrawal shall become effective on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of three months after the date of receipt of such notification by the Secretary General.

Article 31

1 Any Party may at any time denounce this framework Convention by means of a notification addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

2 Such denunciation shall become effective on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of six months after the date of receipt of the notification by the Secretary General.

Article 32

The Secretary General of the Council of Europe shall notify the member States of the Council, other signatory States and any State which has acceded to this framework Convention, of:

- a) any signature;
- b) the deposit of any instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession;
- c) any date of entry into force of this framework Convention in accordance with Articles 28, 29 and 30;
- d) any other act, notification or communication relating to this framework Convention.

In witness whereof the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto, have signed this framework Convention.

Done at ..., this... day of ..., in English and French, both texts being equally authentic, in a single copy which shall be deposited in the archives of the Council of Europe. The Secretary General of the Council of Europe shall transmit certified copies to each member State of the Council of Europe and to any State invited to sign or accede to this framework Convention.

OKVIRNA KONVENCIJA ZA ZAŠTITU NACIONALNIH MANJINA

Države članice Vijeća Europe i druge države potpisnice ove Okvirne konvencije,

Smatrajući da je cilj Vijeća Europe postići veće jedinstvo njegovih članova u svrhu osiguranja i ostvarivanja ideala i načela njihove zajedničke baštine,

Smatrajući da je jedna od metoda ostvarivanja tog cilja održavanje i dalje ostvarivanje ljudskih prava i temeljnih sloboda,

U želji da slijede Deklaraciju šefova država i vlada država članica Vijeća Europe usvojenu u Beču 9. listopada 1993,

Odlučne u nakani da na svojim područjima zaštite postojanje nacionalnih manjina.

Smatrajući da je burna povijest Europe pokazala kako je zaštita nacionalnih manjina bitna za stabilnost, demokratsku sigurnost i mir na ovom kontinentu,

Smatrajući da pluralističko i istinski demokratsko društvo treba ne samo poštivati etničku, kulturnu, jezičnu i vjersku samobitnost svakog pripadnika nacionalne manjine, već im također stvoriti odgovarajuće uvjete za izražavanje, očuvanje i razvijanje te samobitnosti,

Smatrajući da je stvaranje ozračja snošljivosti i dijaloga nužno kako bi kulturna raznolikost bila izvorom i čimbenikom ne podjela, već obogaćivanja svakog društva,

Smatrajući da stvaranje tolerantne i bogate Europe ne ovisi samo o suradnji među državama već iziskuje i međugraničnu suradnju lokalnih i regionalnih vlasti, a da se time ne dovodi u pitanje ustav i teritorijalna cjelovitost svake države,

S obzirom na Konvenciju o zaštiti ljudskih prava i temeljnih sloboda i na pripadajuće Protokole,

S obzirom na obveze glede zaštite nacionalnih manjina po konvencijama i deklaracijama Ujedinjenih naroda i po dokumentima Konferencije o sigurnosti i suradnji u Europi, posebice Kopenhaškom dokumentu od 29. lipnja 1990.

Odlučne u nakani da odrede načela koja valja poštivati i obveze što proizlaze iz njih s ciljem osiguranja, kako u državama članicama tako i u drugim državama koje usvoje ovaj instrument, učinkovite zaštite nacionalnih manjina, te prava i sloboda pripadnika tih manjina, u okviru zakona i uz poštivanje teritorijalne cjelovitosti i nacionalnog suvereniteta država,

Odlučne u nakani da primijene načela utvrđena u ovoj Okvirnoj konvenciji putem nacionalnog zakonodavstva i odgovarajuće vladine politike,

Sporazumjele su se kako slijedi:

ODJELJAK I.

Članak 1.

Zaštita nacionalnih manjina, te prava i sloboda pripadnika manjina čini sastavni dio međunarodne zaštite ljudskih prava i kao takva spada u područje međunarodne suradnje.

Članak 2.

Odredbes ove Okvime konvencije primjenjuju se u dobroj vjeri, u duhu razumijevanja i snošljivosti, te u skladu s načelima dobrosusjedstva, prijateljskih odnosa i suradnje među državama.

Članak 3.

1. Svaki pripadnik nacionalne manjine ima pravo slobodno izabrati da li da bude ili ne bude tretiran kao takav, te nikakve štete ne smiju proisteći iz takva izbora ili iz korištenja prava vezanih za takav izbor.
2. Pripadnici nacionalnih manjina mogu koristiti prava i uživati u slobodama što proizlaze iz načela sadržanih u ovoj Okvirnoj konvenciji, i to kako pojedinačno tako i u zajednici s drugima.

ODJELJAK II.

Članak 4.

1. Stranke se obvezuju jamčiti pripadnicima nacionalnih manjina pravo jednakosti pred zakonom i jednake pravne zaštite. U svezi s tim zabranjuje se bilo kakva diskriminacija temeljena na pripadnosti nacionalnoj manjini.
2. Stranke se obvezuju da će po potrebi usvojiti odgovarajuće mjere s ciljem promicanja pune i učinkovite jednakosti između pripadnika nacionalne manjine i pripadnika većinskog pučanstva u svim područjima gospodarskog, društvenog, političkog i kulturnog života. U svezi s tim stranke će na odgovarajući način uzeti u obzir specifične uvjete pripadnika nacionalnih manjina.
3. Mjere usvojene u skladu sa stavkom 2. ne smatraju se činom diskriminacije.

Članak 5.

1. Stranke se obvezuju unaprijediti uvjete potrebne za pripadnike nacionalnih manjina radi održavanja i razvijanja njihove kulture, te očuvanja bitnih sastavnica njihove samobitnosti odnosno njihove vjere, jezika, tradicije i kulture baštine.
2. Ne dirajući u mjere poduzete u vodenju opće integracijske politike, stranke će se suzdržati od politike ili prakse asimilacije pripadnika nacionalnih manjina protiv njihove volje, te će takve osobe zaštititi od svake akcije kojoj je cilj takva asimilacija.

Članak 6.

1. Stranke će poticati duh snošljivosti i međukulturnog dijaloga i poduzeti učinkovite mjere na promicanju uzajamnog poštovanja razumijevanja i suradnje među svim ljudima koji žive na njihovu području, bez obzira na etničku, kultumu, jezičnu ili vjersku pripadnost tih ljudi, posebice na području obrazovanja, kulture i medija.

2. Stranke se obvezuju poduzeti odgovarajuće mjere zaštite osoba koje bi mogle biti izložene prijetnjama ili diskriminaciji, neprijateljstvu ili nasilju radi njihove etničke, kulturne, jezične ili vjerske pripadnosti.

Članak 7.

Stranke su dužne osigurati poštovanje prava svakog pripadnika nacionalne manjine na slobodu mirnog okupljanja, slobodu udruživanja, slobodu izražavanja, te slobodu misli, savjesti i vjere.

Članak 8.

Stranke se obvezuju priznati svakom pripadniku nacionalne manjine prava na očitovanje svoje vjere ili uvjerenja, te na osnivanje vjerskih ustanova, organizacija i udruga.

Članak 9.

1. Stranke se obvezuju priznati da pravo na slobodu izražavanja svakog pripadnika nacionalne manjine uključuje slobodu na vlastita mišljenja, te na primanje i širenje informacija i ideja na manjinskom jeziku bez miješanja javnih vlasti i neovisno o granicama. Strane su dužne osigurati, u okviru svojih pravnih sustava, da pripadnici nacionalne manjine ne budu diskriminirani glede pristupa medijima.

2. Stavak 1 ne spriječava stranke da traže dozvolu, bez diskriminacije i na temelju objektivnih kriterija, za radijske postaje i televizijske postaje ili za kinematografska poduzeća.

3. Stranke neće ometati pripadnike racionalnih manjina u osnivanju i uporabi tiskovnih medija. U zakonskim će okvirima radio-televizijskog emitiranja što više osigurati, uzimajući u obzir odredbe stavka 1., da pripadnicima nacionalnih manjina bude pružena mogućnost osnivanja i korištenja vlastitih medija.

4. U okviru svojih pravnih sustava stranke će usvojiti odgovarajuće mjere s ciljem olakšanja pristupa medijima pripadnika nacionalnih manjina, te s ciljem promicanja snošljivosti i omogućavanja kulturnog pluralizma.

Članak 10.

1. Stranke se obvezuju priznati pravo da svaki pripadnik nacionalne manjine ima pravo slobodno i bez miješanja koristiti svoj manjinski jezik, privatno i javno, u govoru i u pismu.

2. Na područjima nastanjenima osobama koje tradicionalno ili u znatnijem broju pripadaju nacionalnim manjinama, ukoliko te osobe to zatraže te ondje gdje takav zahtjev odgovara stvarnoj potrebi, stranke će uzastojati, koliko je to moguće, osigurati uvjete koji će omogućiti korištenje manjinskog jezika u ophodjenju tih osoba s tijelima vlasti.

3. Stranke se obvezuju svakoj osobi koja pripada nacionalnoj manjini jamčiti pravo na to da smjesta bude informirana, na jeziku kojeg razumije, o razlozima svojeg uhićenja te o naravi i povodu optužbe protiv nje, kao i to da se brani na tom jeziku, u slučaju potrebe i uz slobodnu pomoć prevoditelja.

Članak 11.

1. Stranke se obvezuju priznati da svaka osoba koja pripada nacionalnoj manjini ima pravo koristiti svoje prezime i ime na manjinskom jeziku te da joj ono bude službeno priznato, u skladu s modalitetima koje predviđa njihov pravni sustav.

2. Stranke se obvezuju priznati da svaka osoba koja pripada nacionalnoj manjini ima pravo na svojem manjinskom jeziku isticati oznake, natpise i druge informacije privatne naravi a javno uočljive.

3. Na područjima tradicionalno nastanjenima znatnijim brojem osoba koje pripadaju nacionalnoj manjini, stranke će u okviru svojih pravnih sustava, uključujući - gdje je to prikladno - sporazume s drugim državama te uzimajući u obzir njihove specifične uvjete, uzastojati istaknuti tradicionalne lokalne nazive, nazive ulica i druge topografske oznake namijenjene javnosti također i na manjinskom jeziku kad za takve oznake postoji dostatno zanimanje.

Članak 12.

1. Gdje je to prikladno, stranke poduzimaju mjere na području obrazovanja i istraživanja radi promicanja spoznaje o kulturi, povijesti, jezika i vjere njihovih nacionalnih manjina i većine.

2. U tom kontekstu stranke će, između ostalog, pružiti odgovarajuće mogućnosti za obuku nastavnika i pristup udžbenicima, te će olakšati kontakte između učenika i nastavnika različitih zajednica.

3. Stranke se obvezuju promovirati jednaku dostupnost obrazovanja osobama koje pripadaju nacionalnim manjinama na svim razinama.

Članak 13.

1. Unutar svojih obrazovnih sustava stranke priznaju da osobe koje pripadaju nacionalnoj manjini imaju pravo ustanovljavati i upravljati vlastitim privatnim ustanovama za obrazovanje i obuku.

2. Korištenje ovoga prava ne uključuje nikakvu financijsku obvezu za stranke.

Članak 14.

1. Stranke se obvezuju priznati da svaka osoba koja pripada nacionalnoj manjini ima pravo učiti na svom manjinskom jeziku.
2. Na područjima tradicionalno ili u znatnijem broju nastanjenom osobama koje pripadaju nacionalnim manjinama, ako za to postoji dostatno zanimanje, stranke će uzastojati osigurati, koliko je to moguće te u okvirima svojih obrazovnih sustava, da osobe koje pripadaju tim manjinama imaju odgovarajuće mogućnosti da uče manjinski jezik ili da ih se podučava na manjinskom jeziku.
3. Stavak 2. ovoga članka primjenjuje se tako ne dirajući u učenje službenog jezika ili nastave na tom jeziku.

Članak 15.

Stranke će stvoriti uvjete nužne za učinkovito sudjelovanje osoba koje pripadaju nacionalnim manjinama u kulturnom, društvenom i gospodarskom životu i javnim poslovima, posebice u onima koji se tiču njih samih.

Članak 16.

Stranke se uzdržavaju od mjera koje mijenjaju omjere među pučanstvom na područjima nastanjenima osobama koje pripadaju nacionalnim manjinama, a koje su usmjerene na ograničenja prava i sloboda koje proizlaze iz načela sadržanih u aktualnoj Okvirnoj konvenciji.

Članak 17.

1. Stranke se obvezuju da se neće miješati u prava osoba koje pripadaju nacionalnim manjinama da uspostavljaju i održavaju slobodne i miroljubive kontakte preko granica s osobama koje legalno borave u drugim državama, osobito s onima s kojima dijele etnički, kulturni, jezični ili vjerski identitet ili pak zajedničko kulturno nasljeđe.
2. Stranke se obvezuju da se neće miješati u prava osoba koje pripadaju nacionalnim manjinama da sudjeluju u djelatnostima nevladinih organizacija, kako na državnoj tako i na međunarodnoj razini.

Članak 18.

1. Stranke će nastojati, gdje je to potrebno, zaključiti bilateralne i multilateralne sporazume s drugim državama, osobito sa susjednim državama, radi osiguranja zaštite osoba koje pripadaju dotičnim nacionalnim manjinama.
2. Tamo gdje je to relevantno, stranke poduzimaju mjere za poticanje prekogranične suradnje.

Članak 19.

Stranke se obvezuju da će poštovati i primjenjivati načela sadržana u aktualnoj Okvirnoj konvenciji, uz samo ona ograničenja, restrikcije i derogacije - tamo gdje je to nužno - koja su predviđena međunarodnopravnim instrumentima, osobito

Konvenciji za zaštitu ljudskih prava i temeljnih sloboda, u onoj mjeri u kojoj se oni odnose na prava i slobode koji proizlaze iz spomenutih načela.

ODJELJAK III.

Članak 20.

U korištenju prava i sloboda koja proizlaze iz načela sadržanih u aktualnoj Okvirnoj konvenciji svaka osoba koja pripada nacionalnoj manjini poštovat će zakonodavstvo dotične države i prava drugih, posebice prava osoba koje pripadaju većini ili drugim nacionalnim manjinama.

Članak 21.

Ništa u ovoj Okvirnoj konvenciji neće se tumačiti kao da implicira bilo kakvo pravo na obavljanje bilo kakve djelatnosti ili izvršavanje čina suprotnih temeljnim načelima međunarodnog prava te posebice suverene jednakosti, teritorijalne cjelovitosti i političke nezavisnosti država.

Članak 22.

Ništa se u ovoj Okvirnoj konvenciji ne smije tumačiti kao ograničenje ijednog od ljudskih prava i temeljnih sloboda koja mogu biti osigurana po zakonima koje od ugovornih stranaka ili po bilo kojemu drugom sporazumu čija je stranka dotična ugovorna stranka.

Članak 23.

Za prava i slobode koji proizlaze iz načela sadržanih u ovoj Okvirnoj konvenciji, u onoj mjeri u kojoj su oni predmet odgovarajuće odredbe Konvencije za zaštitu ljudskih prava i temeljnih sloboda ili pak Protokola uz nju, smatra se da su u skladu s potonjim odredbama.

ODJELJAK IV.

Članak 24.

1. Odbor ministara Vijeća Europe pratit će provedbu ove Okvirne konvencije od strane ugovornih stranaka.

2. Stranke, koje nisu članice Vijeća Europe, sudjelovat će u mehanizmima provedbe, prema modalitetima koje treba ustvrditi.

Članak 25.

1. U roku od godine dana od stupanja na snagu ove Okvirne konvencije za pojedinu ugovornu stranku, dotična će Glavnom tajniku Vijeća Europe proslijediti potpune informacije o zakonodavnim i drugim mjerama, koje su poduzete za ostvarenje načela izloženih u ovoj Okvirnoj konvenciji.

2. Nakon toga, svaka će stranka Glavnom tajniku, u pravilnim razmacima i kad god to zatraži Odbor ministara, prosljeđivati sve daljnje informacije koje su značajne, za provedbu ove Okvirne konvencije.

3. Glavni tajnik proslijedit će Odboru ministara informacije koje su proslijeđene pod uvjetima iz ovog članka.

Članak 26.

1. U ocjenjivanju mjera koje su stranke poduzele za ostvarenje načela izloženih u ovoj Okvirnoj konvenciji, Odboru ministara pomagat će savjetodavni odbor, čiji članovi moraju imati priznato stručno znanje na području zaštite nacionalnih manjina.

2. Sastav tog savjetodavnog odbora i njegove postupke odredit će Odbor ministara u roku od godine dana od stupanja na snagu ove Okvirne konvencije.

ODJELJAK V.

Članak 27.

Ova će Okvirna konvencija biti otvorena za potpisivanje od strane država članica Vijeća Europe. Do datuma stupanja na snagu Konvencije, bit će otvorena i za potpisivanje od strane bilo koje države koju pozove Odbor ministara. Podložna je ratifikaciji, prihvatu ili odobrenju. Isprave o ratifikaciji, prihvatu ili odobrenju bit će položene kod Glavnog tajnika Vijeća Europe.

Članak 28.

1. Ova Okvirna konvencija stupa na snagu prvog dana mjeseca koji slijedi nakon isteka perioda od tri mjeseca nakon datuma kojeg dvanaest članica Vijeća Europe izraze pristanak da se obvežu na Konvenciju u skladu s odredbama članka 27.

2. U pogledu bilo koje zemlje članice koja naknadno izrazi pristanak da se na nju obveže, Okvirna konvencija stupa na snagu prvog dana mjeseca koji slijedi nakon isteka razdoblja od tri mjeseca nakon polaganja isprave o ratifikaciji, prihvatu ili odobrenju.

Članak 29.

1. Nakon stupanja na snagu ove Okvirne konvencije i nakon konzultacija s državama ugovornicima, Odbor ministara Vijeća Europe, može, odlukom većine koju predviđa članak 20.d. Statuta Vijeća Europe, pozvati da pristupi Konvenciji svaku državu nečlanicu Vijeća Europe, koja je pozvana da je potpiše u skladu s odredbama članka 27. ali to još nije učinila, kao i bilo koju drugu državu nečlanicu.

2. Za svaku državu koja pristupa Konvenciji, Okvirna konvencija stupit će na snagu prvog dana mjeseca koji slijedi nakon isteka razdoblja od tri mjeseca od polaganja isprave o pristupu kod Glavnog tajnika Vijeća Europe.

Članak 30.

1. Svaka država može, u vrijeme potpisivanja ili polaganja svoje isprave o ratifikaciji, prihvatu, odobrenju ili pristupu, navesti područje ili područja za čije je međunarodne odnose odgovorna, na koje će se primjenjivati ova Okvirna konvencija.

2. Svaka država može kasnije, izjavom Glavnom tajniku Vijeća Europe, proširiti primjenu ove Okvirne konvencije na bilo koje drugo područje navedeno u izjavi. U pogledu tog područja, Okvirna konvencija stupa na snagu prvog dana mjeseca koji slijedi nakon isteka razdoblja od tri mjeseca od dana kada je Glavni tajnik primio takvu izjavu.

3. Svaka izjava dana prema dvama prethodnim stavcima može se, u pogledu bilo kojeg područja navedenog u takvoj izjavi, povući notifikacijom upućenom Glavnom tajniku. Povlačenje izjave proizvodi učinke od prvog dana mjeseca koji slijedi nakon isteka razdoblja od tri mjeseca od dana kada je Glavni tajnik primio takvu notifikaciju.

Članak 31.

1. Svaka stranka može u bilo koje vrijeme otkazati ovu Okvirnu konvenciju, i to putem notifikacije upućene Glavnom tajniku Vijeća Europe.

2. Takav otkaz proizvodi učinke od prvog dana mjeseca koji slijedi nakon isteka razdoblja od šest mjeseci od dana kada je Glavni tajnik primio takvu notifikaciju.

Članak 32.

Glavni tajnik Vijeća Europe obavijestit će države članice Vijeća, druge države potpisnice i bilo koju državu koja je pristupila ovoj Okvirnoj konvenciji, o:

a) svakom potpisu,

b) polaganju svake isprave o ratifikaciji, prihvatu, odobrenju ili pristupu,

c) svakom danu stupanja na snagu ove Okvirne konvencije u skladu s člancima 28., 29. i 30,

d) svakom drugom činu, notifikaciji ili priopćenju u vezi s Okvirnom konvencijom.

U potvrdu gore navedenog, dolje potpisani, propisno ovlašteni za to, potpisali su ovu Okvirnu konvenciju.

Done at ..., this... day of ..., in English and French, both texts being equally authentic, in a single copy which shall be deposited in the archives of the Council of Europe. The Secretary General of the Council of Europe shall transmit certified copies to each member State of the Council of Europe and to any State invited to sign or accede to this framework Convention.

Sastavljeno u Strasbourgu, dana 1. veljače 1995. na engleskom i francuskom, pri čemu su obje verzije jednako vjerodostojne, u samo jednom primjerku koji će se položiti u arhiv Vijeća Europe. Glavni tajnik Vijeća Europe proslijedit će ovjerene

kopije svakoj državi članici Vijeća Europe i svakoj državi koja je pozvana da potpiše ovu Okvirnu konvenciju ili da joj pristupi.

Article 3

The Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities shall be implemented by the relevant ministries and other bodies of state authority of the Republic of Croatia with remit over the exercise of rights envisaged by the Convention.

Article 4

This Act shall enter into force on the eighth day after its publication in the official journal of the Republic of Croatia, *Narodne novine*.

Class: 016-O1/97-02/02
Zagreb, 19 September 1997.

CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
CROATIA

Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the Croatian Parliament
Vlatko Pavletić, Academician (*signed*)