

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 7 April 2015

ACFC/SR/IV(2015)002

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

Received on 6 March 2015



Ministry of Human
Capacities

HUNGARY

FOURTH REPORT

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

Budapest, 01 February 2014

CONTENT

<u>INTRODUCTION</u>	4
<u>I. ACTIONS RELATED TO THE VISIBILITY OF RESULTS OF THE THIRD-ROUND MONITORING ASSESSMENT AND PRACTICAL MEASURES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION</u>	20
<i>Government bodies performing tasks directly affecting nationalities</i>	20
<i>Measures for being aware of the documents of the Framework Convention</i>	23
<i>Involvement of non-governmental organisations in the implementation of the Framework Convention</i>	29
<u>II. MEASURES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS, RELATED TO SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES</u>	37
<i>Involvement of nationalities in developing the governmental policy</i>	37
<i>Legislation applicable to nationalities</i>	38
<i>Issues related to the participation rights of nationalities</i>	47
<i>Report and results of the Charter for Languages of the fifth period</i>	48
<i>Regulations on equal treatment and the promotion of equal opportunities</i>	49
<i>Combating discrimination and hate speech (and the punishability thereof)</i>	50
<i>Measures for improving discrimination within the Police, and their results</i>	53
<i>Results of combating intolerance in the reporting period</i>	55
<i>Measures for the social integration of the Roma</i>	56
<i>Nationality education</i>	60
<i>Roma integration programmes in education, disadvantaged children and special schools</i>	61
<i>Enforcing the media rights of nationalities</i>	67
<u>III. DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPROVE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION</u>	71
<i>Article 1</i>	71
<i>Article 2</i>	72
<i>Article 3</i>	73
<i>Article 4</i>	75
<i>Article 5</i>	86
<i>Article 6</i>	94
<i>Article 7</i>	96
<i>Article 8</i>	98
<i>Article 9</i>	99

<i>Article 10</i>	103
<i>Article 11</i>	104
<i>Article 12</i>	105
<i>Article 13</i>	112
<i>Article 14</i>	112
<i>Article 15</i>	113
<i>Article 16</i>	116
<i>Article 17</i>	116
<i>Article 18</i>	118
<i>Article 19</i>	120
<i>Articles 20–23</i> :.....	120
<i>Article 30</i>	120
<u>IV. ANSWERS TO THE SPECIAL QUESTIONS ARISING FROM PECULIAR NATIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES</u>	121
<u>ATTACHMENT</u>	122
<i>1.) The Fundamental Law of Hungary (25 April 2011)</i>	122
<i>2.) Act CLXXIX of 2011 on the Rights of Nationalities</i>	122
<i>3.) Act CCIII of 2011 on the Election of Members of Parliament (Electoral Act)</i>	122
<i>4.) Act XXXVI of 2013 on Electoral Procedure (Electoral Procedure Act)</i>	122
<i>5.) Act XXXVI of 2012 on the National Assembly (National Assembly Act)</i>	122
<i>6.) Act L of 2010 on the Election of Local Government Representatives and Mayors</i>	122
<i>7.) Act CXXV of 2003 on Equal Treatment and the Promotion of Equal Opportunities</i>	122
<i>8.) Fifth Periodical Country Report on the Implementation in Hungary of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages</i>	122

INTRODUCTION

Hungary belongs to the first signatories of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities of the Council of Europe (hereinafter: Framework Convention), it deposited its instrument of ratification on 25 September 1995.

The Framework Convention was ratified with Decision 81/1995 (of 06.07.) OGY of the National Assembly of the Republic of Hungary (hereinafter: National Assembly) and promulgated in Act XXXIV of 1999.

Hungary has so far submitted the country report on its legislative practice aimed at the implementation of principles in the Framework Convention, the measures taken in the interest of Hungarian national and ethnic minorities to the Council of Europe (hereinafter: CoE) three times, in 1999, 2004 and 2009. The latest country report (hereinafter: third country report) for the evaluation of the period between 2004 and 2009 was submitted by the representative of the Government of Hungary (hereinafter: Government) to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe based on Government Decision 1074/2009. (of 20.05.) on 4 June 2009.

The Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities of the Council of Europe (hereinafter: Advisory Committee) examined the implementation of the content of the Framework Convention in Hungary between 7 and 11 December 2009. The Advisory Committee adopted the document ACFC/OP/III(2010)001 on 18 March 2010, in which it summarised its expert opinion on Hungary's minority policy (hereinafter: Opinion of the Advisory Committee) based on the third country report and on-the-spot monitoring.

After examining the Opinion of the Advisory Committee and the supplements of the Hungarian Government as well as comments of other governments, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (hereinafter: Committee of Ministers) specified its position regarding the implementation of the Framework Convention in Hungary and formulated recommendations related to the issue in its resolution no. CM/ResCMN(2011)13 on 6 July 2011. (hereinafter: Resolution of the Committee of Ministers).

The fourth country report (hereinafter: Country Report) on the situation of the Hungarian implementation of obligations based on the Framework Convention, which is published here, reports on events for nationality politics of the period from 1 February 2009 until the approval of the Country Report by the Government (hereinafter: reporting period).

The Country Report has been created according to guideline ACFC/III(2013)001 of the Advisory Committee adopted on 30 April 2013 and reviewed by the Human Rights Rapporteur Group of the Council of Europe (hereinafter: Guideline of the Advisory Committee).

The Country Report provides information on the activity of the ministerial departments affected in the implementation of the government nationality policy in the reporting period in order to implement the content of the Framework Convention.

In accordance with the Guideline of the Advisory Committee, the national self-governments of the Hungarian national and ethnic minorities (hereinafter, based on the Hungarian terminology: nationalities) subject to Act CLXXIX of 2011 on the Rights of Nationalities (hereinafter: Nationality Act) were consulted during the formation of the Country Report.

In order to document the Country Report as wide as possible, several other non-governmental institutions and non-governmental organisations were consulted. We have required and received data, as undertaken in the Framework Convention, from

- the ministries, state secretariats and background institutions of the Government, county and metropolitan government offices,
- judicial organisations, the Notarial Chamber,
- the media authority,
- national minority self-governments,
- cultural institutions and
- scientific researchers.

As important sources, the following documents were used: reports on the conditions of nationalities living in Hungary, falling within the reporting period, due every two years (Decision 79/2011 (of 28.10.) OGY, and Decision 98/2013 (of 27.11.) OGY), the nationality policy strategy (which was still under preparation during the formation of this Country Report), and the fifth interim country report (Government Decision 1045/2012. (of 29.02.) relating to the implementation of obligations based on the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. We will present the activity of the above mentioned institutions and organisations related to the implementation of some of the provisions of the Framework Convention in Hungary and their evaluation in detail.

* * *

Hungary is a parliamentary democracy. It became full member of the European Union (hereinafter: EU) on 1 May 2004. During the reporting period, the Heads of State were and have been László Sólyom (between 2005 and 2010), Pál Schmitt (between 2010 and 2012)¹ and János Áder (from 2012). The Head of Government was Ferenc Gyurcsány (between 2004 and 2009), Gordon Bajnai (between 2009 and 2010) and from 2010, this position has been held by Prime Minister Viktor Orbán. Hungary held the presidency of the Council of the European Union during the reporting period for the first time (between January and June 2011), and the Visegrád Group (hereinafter: V4) and the Central European Initiative started their presidency partly in this period (between July 2013 and June 2014).

The parliamentary elections held in the spring of 2010 resulted in fundamental changes in the public life of Hungary. As a result of the last election held in 2010, five parties have been represented in the National Assembly: the FIDESZ Hungarian Civic Alliance and Christian Democratic People's Party (**Fidesz-KDNP**) (263 persons), the Hungarian Socialist Party (**MSZP**) (59 persons), the Movement for a Better Hungary (**Jobbik**) (47 persons) and the party Politics Can Be Different (**LMP**) (16 persons). The Fidesz-KDNP Alliance obtained a more than two-thirds majority in the new Parliament, and the Government was established by the Prime Minister designate of the Alliance, Viktor Orbán after the elections. The subsequent governmental restructuring resulted in a significant decrease in the number of ministries, and the role of the Secretaries of State in the 8 ministries formed increased compared to the previous period. Additionally, the Government restored the position of the Secretary of State for Administration inspecting the legitimate operation of ministries, and as a result of this, the

¹ After the resignation of Pál Schmitt in 2012, it was László Kövér as the President of the National Assembly who temporarily (for a few weeks) exercised the powers of the President of the Republic of Hungary until the election of the new Head of State.

parliamentary and political areas are also directed by separate secretaries of state in the case of the individual ministries.

In the new governmental structure, the ministries and the most important areas of responsibility were as follows: The **Ministry of Interior** coordinates the cases related to local governments, law enforcement, immigration, citizenship, settlement planning as well as disaster management and public employment. The **Ministry of Defence** shall establish the objectives for defence, defence policy or defence economy of the country and is responsible for controlling the Hungarian Defence Force. The **Ministry of Public Administration and Justice** is responsible for the harmonisation of the government's work, the development of central and regional administration as well as the administrative quality and staff policy. Its priority task is the preparation, coordination and implementation of the Government's justice policy. The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** is responsible for the formation and maintenance of Hungary's international relations, the representation of national interests at global level as well as the implementation of Hungary's foreign policy objectives. The priority task of the Ministry is the formation of Hungary's EU policy. The **Ministry for National Economy** shall determine the guideline of the Hungarian economic policy and implement the national economic strategy. The tasks of the Ministry include job creation, establishment of a family-friendly tax system, improvement of competitiveness, creation of the budget and reduction of the public debt. The **Ministry of Human Capacities** (between 2010 and 2012: **Ministry for National Resources**, NEFMI) is responsible for the operation of the Hungarian social and health care system, the development of education in kindergartens and schools, the development of tertiary education, the conservation of our cultural values, the enforcement of the interests of children and the youth as well as the implementation of governmental ideas related to Hungarian sport life. The **Ministry of National Development** shall perform tasks related to development policy, climate and energy policy, infocommunication as well as transport policy. Apart from rural development, the **Ministry of Rural Development** is responsible for the inspection of the food chain, for environment protection and agriculture.

Owing to the parliamentary elections, the system of the government supervision over nationality policy has been fundamentally transformed. The centre of government activity related to nationalities became the Ministry of Public Administration and Justice (hereinafter: KIM), and from 2012, the Ministry of Human Capacities (hereinafter: EMMI). Based on Government Decree 212/2010 (of 01.07.) on the Responsibilities and Competences of Ministers and the Secretary of State Managing the Prime Minister's Office, the minister responsible for local governments - together with the Minister for National Economy - shall perform the government tasks related to nationality self-governments arising from the preparation and implementation of the central budget as well as from final account, shall organise the provision of information required for establishing them as well as harmonise the government tasks of planning and management relating to the operation of local and nationality self-governments.

The administrative system of Hungary is divided into 3154 settlements, 19 counties and the capital city, Budapest. Apart from seven planning-statistical regions and 175 regional development-statistical micro-regions in total, from 1 January 2013, districts were also formed by state administrative (public administrative) territorial units according to Act XCIII of 2012 on the Formation of Districts. The tasks of district offices, the rules of competence, special administration services, professional management thereof as well as the seat and area of competence of district offices is regulated by Government Decree 218/2012 (of 13.08.). The

Government Decree provides for the formation of 198 districts in total, 23 districts of which are situated in the capital city, in a territorial arrangement corresponding to districts.

The local government system of the capital has two levels, the administration of the capital belongs both to the 23 individual districts and the Municipal Government of Budapest. Apart from the general administrative system, the special interests of persons belonging to nationalities are represented by nationality self-governments not subordinated to each other, which operate at three (local, county and national) levels. The nationality self-governments - apart from those of settlements and counties - are bodies having right of consultation or agreement in the most important issues (education, culture, use of language) in community life. At the national level of the nationality self-government system there are the national minority self-governments, which are the strategic partners of the central administration, the Government during the solution of some nationality political issues.

* * *

The last full census in Hungary was conducted in 2011, which falls just within the reporting period. This time the population of the country was 9,938,000 - in the decade between 2001 and 2011, the population of Hungary decreased by 2.6%, which means 261,000 persons. During the census of 2011, 85.6% of the Hungarian population identified themselves as Hungarians, while 14.1% of the population did not reply the questions concerning nationalities.

Concerning the census data relating to the individual nationalities, it can be concluded that the *number of persons confessing their national identity* and their ratio within the whole population *has started to increase* in recent years. The number of persons identifying themselves as some of the nationalities has increased to about one-and-a-half times compared to that ten years ago due to the legal framework created by the civilian government, the practical solutions, the system supporting educational as well as cultural autonomy and the typically receptive public mood being general for the majority of people. Based on the census data of 2011, nearly 6% of the population of the country (644,524 persons in total) belong to some nationalities.

While the ratio of persons not replying the questions concerning nationalities nearly tripled in ten years, the ratio of those belonging to nationalities increased by almost forty per cent. The increase in the number of persons belonging to nationalities is even more surprising because questions with regard to belonging to nationalities, just like earlier, were optional on data sheets of the census. Regarding the whole population, nearly 1.4 million persons did not reply questions with regard to belonging to nationalities, native language and the language used in the family and among friends (twice as many as the number of those not replying in the previous census). There is a substantial likelihood that persons belonging to some nationalities can be included among those not replying the questions, at least in their ratio within the population.

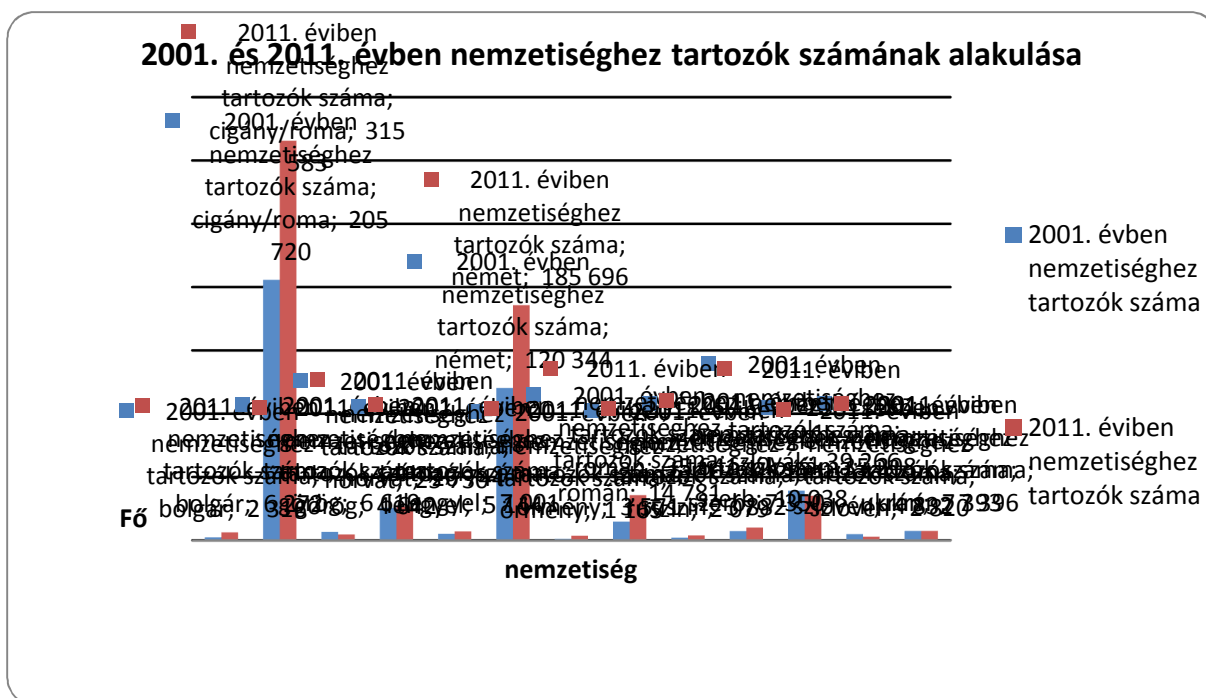
The census results relating to nationalities are summarised in the table below.

Census results relating to nationalities based on the data of the Hungarian Statistical Office

Population by nationality, native language, language used in the family and among friends, and cultural ties								
Nationality, language	Nationality	Native language	Language used in the family and among friends	Belonging to a nationality	Nationality	Native language	Language used in the family and among friends	Belonging to a nationality
2001					2011			
Hungarian	9,416,045	9,546,374	9,584,836	9,627,057	8,314,029	8,409,049	8,409,011	8,504,492
National minorities								
Bulgarian	1,358	1,299	1,118	2,316	3,556	2,899	2,756	6,272
Gypsy (Romani, Boyash)	189,984	48,438	53,075	205,720	308,957	54,339	61,143	315,583
Greek	2,509	1,921	1,974	6,619	3,916	1,872	2,346	4,642
Croat	15,597	14,326	14,779	25,730	23,561	13,716	16,053	26,774
Poles	2,962	2,580	2,659	5,144	5,730	3,049	3,815	7,001
German	62,105	33,774	52,912	120,344	131,951	38,248	95,661	185,696
Armenian	620	294	300	1,165	3,293	444	496	3,571
Romanian	7,995	8,482	8,215	14,781	26,345	13,886	17,983	35,641
Rusyn	1,098	1,113	1,068	2,079	3,323	999	1,131	3,882
Serbs	3,816	3,388	4,186	7,350	7,210	3,708	5,713	10,038
Slovak	17,693	11,817	18,057	39,266	29,647	9,888	16,266	35,208
Slovene	3,025	3,180	3,108	4,832	2,385	1,723	1,745	2,820
Ukrainian	5,070	4,885	4,519	7,393	5,633	3,384	3,245	7,396
Total:	313,832	135,497	165,970	442,739	555,507	148,155	228,353	644,524
Population:	10,198,315	10,198,315	10,198,315	10,198,315	9,937,628	9,937,628	9,937,628	9,937,628

Source: Based on the data of the Hungarian Statistical Office - www.nepszamlalas.hu

The census data relating to nationalities reflected on two, seemingly contradictory facts. Thus, the number of persons belonging to nationalities, apart from some nationalities, has been increasing since the end of the communist era, while the ratio of those confessing the language of a specific nationality as their native language is constantly decreasing. This occurs even for nationalities where the increase in the number of persons belonging to the nationality is probably related mainly to continuous migration from the homeland.



Source: Ministry of Human Capacities

Data related to the use of native language for nationalities and to education

Nationality	Number of persons belonging to the nationality		Ratio of persons with this native language		Ratio of persons under the age of 14		Ratio of persons involved in public education for nationalities
	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011	
Bulgarian	2,316	6,272	56%	46.2%	9.4%	10.2%	6.4%
Gypsy/Roma	205,720	315,583	23.5%	17.2%	35.6%	32.4%	79.6%
Greek	6,619	4,642	29%	40.3%	10.8%	11.6%	15%
Croat	25,730	26,774	55.7%	51.2%	9.3%	8.2%	151%
Poles	5,144	7,001	50%	43.5%	10.1%	8.8%	16.5%
German	120,344	185,696	28%	20.6%	9.0%	10.1%	302%
Armenian	1,165	3,571	25%	12.4%	10.6%	8%	no education
Romanian	14,781	35,641	57%	39%	9.2%	7.5%	63.7%

Rusyn	2,079	3,882	53.5%	25.7 %	8.1%	7.7%	38.4%
Serbs	7,350	10,038	46%	37%	11.4%	8.7%	38.7%
Slovak	39,266	35,208	30%	28%	8.5%	7.2%	230%
Slovene	4,832	2,820	65.8%	61%	8.2%	6.4%	54.1%
Ukrainian	7,393	7,396	66%	45.7%	10.4%	8.3%	no education

Source: Ministry of Human Capacities

The language ties and data related to the command of languages show a continuous decrease, based on census data from the past decades. As it is reflected in the data related to nationalities, this can be partly in connection with the ratios according to age distribution, which have significantly shifted towards the elderly generations over the past decades. Mainly the persons belonging to the elderly generation who grew up in a monolingual community in their childhood and in the majority of cases mastered Hungarian at school must have really been the ones to speak the native language of their nationality. The number of this generation has significantly decreased over the past decades. In the life of the subsequent age groups there was indeed a change of language, and they mainly speak the nationality language as a second language, thus, they occur in statistics as persons speaking the (Hungarian) language instead of those having the native language of the nationality during the census. However, the number of these people also shows a declining trend. This is even more striking when the number of persons under the age of 14 is examined among the data related to nationalities. Namely, the difference cannot be interpreted among these data and people involved in pre-school and school education for nationalities. The ratio of people under the age of 14 is not significant among people confessing themselves as belonging to nationalities, while the number of those involved in education for nationalities is stagnating or increasing just like at German nationality schools.

The decrease in the number of people having the native language of nationalities or speaking the nationality language requires the education of nationality languages to be present in public education more emphatically. Since the nationality language has a second language role for the majority of persons belonging to nationalities, which is under the level of native language but, anyway, above that of a foreign language, it is reasonable to take teaching methods of foreign languages into consideration in education. The priority area of the acquisition of language skills is public education, while the fundamental objective of language teaching in tertiary education is to ensure the acquisition of specialised language skills because those are based on the language competencies obtained in public education. Nationality language training at primary and secondary schools must be suitable for enabling the acquisition of language skills which are usable or eventually demonstrable with documents. Tertiary education builds on this, by providing specialised language skills. It is important to establish an environment supporting language learning in order that pupils can meet languages outside school lessons (language competition, theatre workshop, exchange programmes and summer camps in the homeland), which allows them to develop their language skills more freely, in life-like situations.

The increase in the number of persons belonging to nationalities for the majority of communities can be explained with the extension of the national self-government system. During the two elections prior to the census of 2011, numerous nationality self-governments were formed in settlements where the presence of nationalities could not be detected earlier, or that of a specific nationality was although significant in a settlement from a historical

perspective but they did not go on operating as communities partly due to the assimilation, partly the internal or external migration over the past century.

Concerning nationality politics, the census data of 2011 are of fundamental importance in two contexts. On the one hand, the settlements where nationality self-government elections can be invited in 2014 are identified. Based on this, there is also a reference to the specific communities that will have real chance to get full representation in the National Assembly during the parliamentary elections of 2014. The second context is that the operational support of local and regional nationality self-governments is performed with the consideration of the census data from 2014, in accordance with the regulation on financing the operation of nationality self-governments. To this end, the nationality policy strategy should also cover the summary of census data.

Evolution of the number of nationality self-governments after the elections in 2000 and 2010

Nationality	Number of settlement-based minority self-governments, 2000	Number of settlement-based nationality self-governments, 2011
Bulgarian	14	41
Gypsy/Roma	724	1235
Greek	18	37
Croat	75	127
Polish	33	49
German	271	424
Armenian	25	39
Romanian	31	71
Rusyn	10	75
Serbian	35	48
Slovak	75	122
Slovene	10	11
Ukrainian	5	23
Total:	1326	2302

Source: Ministry of Human Capacities

As indicated in the table, the number of self-governments for every nationality has significantly increased in ten years, eventually by more than 100 per cent, with the exception of the Slovene community. Consequently, the number of active citizens in nationality areas was doubled if only the number of the members of self-governments is taken into consideration. This is completed with the evolution of a civil background stimulating the activity of electorates, as well as events, community celebrations and festivals organised by nationality self-governments and non-governmental organizations, which strengthen cultural ties.

The results of census data relating to the individual nationalities will be summarised below.

(2) The number of those belonging to the ***Bulgarian*** community living in Hungary has significantly increased, it is 2.7 times higher than ten years ago. Almost ten per cent of the community (which has thus grown to more than 6,000 persons) is under the age of 14, while a

quarter of it is above the age of 60. Thus, the ratio of those belonging to the economy-wise active age groups is near to 65 per cent. Nevertheless, the number of pupils in the only Bulgarian supplementary language teaching school operated in Hungary is 41. The ratio of university graduates is high (27.6%) and of those with no elementary school qualification is relatively low (13.5%). The figures are worse regarding the command of the Bulgarian language. The Hungarian Statistical Office does not register this with regard to those not belonging to the Bulgarian nationality because of the low number, while the number of persons having Bulgarian as their native language is 2,899 in total, which is 46% of persons belonging to the Bulgarian nationality (the number of persons having Bulgarian as their native language was 1,299 in 2001). About half of the persons with Bulgarian nationality living in Hungary are employed, 5 per cent are unemployed, 28 per cent are inactive and 17 per cent are dependants. Based on the information of the Head of the Bulgarian National Self-Government (hereinafter: BNS), the national representation keeps contact with about 1,500 Bulgarian nationality families. Due to the changes in regulations for nationalities, these were activated and completed with the not dominant but existing new Bulgarian immigrants, resulting in data related to Bulgarians, which were considered positive by BNS during the census.

(3) With regard to **Gypsies/Roma** in Hungary, 153.4 per cent, 315,583 persons in total declared themselves Gypsies or Roma first or second, compared to the number ten years earlier. This represents 3.2% of the population - the number is closer to the ratio of the estimated 7 per cent, which is generally accepted in literature. One reason for people committing to affiliate to their nationality is that the census questionnaire inquired about nationality in two separate questions by drawing attention to the indication of double identity (e.g. Gypsy and Hungarian), compared to the questionnaire of 2001 where multiple identity could be indicated within one question. 32.4 per cent of them are under the age of 14, while the ratio of persons above the age of 60 does not even reach five per cent within the Gypsy population. The ratio of economically active age groups is more than 70 per cent. 81,425 persons in total participate in education (following some Roma programmes) in the age group under 14. The ratio of persons having no elementary school qualification is nearly 47%, while that of university graduates is 0.75%. For the moment, 87,549 persons in total speak either of the Gypsy/Roma (Boyash, Romani) languages in Hungary. The number of those who speak either of the two languages as their native language is 54,339, which represents 17.2 per cent of the community (the number of persons declaring any of the Roma languages as their native language was 48,438). One-sixth of the Gypsies in Hungary are employed, nearly half of them are dependants, 13 per cent are unemployed and 23 per cent are inactive. Before the census, the National Roma Self-Government initiated a campaign in order that as many Gypsies as possible declare their nationalities. The significant increase in their number can be partly explained with this fact, furthermore, the professionals of the Central Statistical Office say another reason may be that the indication of double identity was allowed on the data sheets, as mentioned before. In addition to the number of 315,583, there were 71,686 persons in 2011 who declared themselves as living with Roma people in the same household, moreover, 247,959 people lived “in areas inhabited by people mainly belonging to the Gypsy nationality”.

(4) The **Greek** living in Hungary decreased by about 30 per cent, thus their number was 4,642 in 2011. The ratio of persons under the age of 14 within this nationality is 11.7 per cent, while the ratio of persons above the age of 60 is 14 per cent. Thus, the ratio of Greek of active working age exceeds three-quarters of the whole community. Not more than 81 children take part in Greek nationality education among persons under the age of 14. The ratio of university graduates can be considered high also within the Greek community, it exceeds 24 per cent, while the ratio of persons having no elementary school qualification is nearly 14%. Based on

census data, the number of persons having Greek as their native language is 1,872, which represents 40.6% of the community (the number of persons having Greek as their native language was 1,921 in 2001). Not more than 300 persons are unemployed (6.5%), 43% of them are employed, 28.5% are dependants while the ratio of the inactively employed is 12 per cent among the Greek living in Hungary. The National Self-Government of the Greek Living in Hungary cannot explain the significant decrease in the number of people. Their continuous return to their homeland and the employment of high qualified people in Western Europe may be reasons therefor.

(5) The number of persons belonging to the **Croat** nationality increased slightly - by 4.1 per cent - in ten years between the two censuses. Consequently, their number reached 26,774. The number of those under the age of 14 is 2,198, which represents 8.2% of the nationality. The number of those under the age of 14 attending educational institutions operated with Croat nationality programmes is 3,326. The ratio of persons above the age of 60 is 31.4 per cent, while that of persons of active working age is 60.4% in total within the Croat community. The ratio of university graduates is nearly 18 per cent, while that of persons having no elementary school qualification is 13.2%. Based on census data, 36,296 persons in total speak the Croatian language in Hungary. The number of persons declaring the Croatian language as their native language is 13,716, which represents 51 per cent of those belonging to the Croat community (the number of persons having Croatian as their native language was 14,326 in 2001). Not more than 574 persons among those with Croat nationality living in Hungary are unemployed (4%), 35.6 per cent are employed, 16.9% are dependants and 43.5% are inactively employed. Before the census, the National Croat Self-Government - similar to several other nationality self-governments - made every effort by comprehensive campaigns to convince the members of the community that they should declare their nationality. The increase in the number of those belonging to the nationality is partly due to this fact.

(6) Between the two censuses, the number of those belonging to the **Polish** community living in Hungary increased by nearly 2,000 persons to 7,001, which represents a 37 per cent increase. The ratio of those under the age of 14 within the nationality is not more than eight per cent, while that of persons above the age of 60 is 22.6 per cent. The number of pupils of the single Polish nationality language school is 102 in total. The ratio of persons of active working age is 59.4% within the Polish community. The ratio of university graduates is high within the community (39%), while that of persons having no elementary school qualification is 9%. Based on the census data of 2011, 11,127 persons in total spoke Polish in Hungary, while the number of persons having Polish as their native language is 3,049, which represents 43.5 per cent of those declaring themselves to belong to the Polish community (the number of persons having Polish as their native language was 2,962 in 2001). 407 persons among those with Polish nationality living in Hungary are unemployed (5.8%), 49.8 per cent are employed, 20.7% are dependants and 23.6% are inactively employed. Based on the evaluation of the National Polish Self-Government, the Poles living in Hungary could have been reached more efficiently through a larger support of their campaign but the increase in the number of the Polish community can be considered a positive development. After examining the census data, it could be concluded, among others, that there is a town with considerable activities related to the Polish nationality (e.g. Sárvár commemorates the Polish military refugees from 1939 by a unique exhibition), at the same time, there are only few Poles there, consequently, they cannot participate in the next elections. Based on the census data, however, there are locations where no Polish cultural activities, non-governmental organisations were known for the national self-government, although numerous Poles live there. This will mean a considerable challenge for the National Polish Self-Government in the future.

(7) Since 2001, the number of **Germans** living in Hungary has increased by more than 50% and reached 185,696, which means they represent the second largest nationality after the Roma in Hungary. The ratio of those under the age of 14 is 10.1 per cent, while that of persons above the age of 60 is 27.2 per cent within the community. The ratio of persons of active working age is 62.7% in total. 56,929 children in total attend kindergartens and primary schools educating on the basis of the German nationality programme in Hungary. The ratio of university graduates is 24.5%, while that of persons having no elementary school qualification is 12.8% within the community. Based on census data, 1,111,997 persons in total speak German in Hungary, the number of persons declaring German as their native language is 38,248, which represents 20.5 per cent of those belonging to the German nationality community (the number of persons having German as their native language was 33,774 in 2001). 44.3 per cent of Germans living in Hungary are employed, 4.2 per cent are unemployed, 20.6 per cent are dependants and 32.9 per cent are inactively employed. The National Self-Government of Germans Living in Hungary welcomes the data and considers them mainly the result of its own active campaign and the development of German nationality education.

(8) The number of persons in the **Armenian** community living in Hungary increased more than threefold between the two censuses. Their number was 3,571 in 2011. The number of those under the age of 14 was not more than 284 (7.9%), while that of persons above the age of 60 is 938 (26.2%) within the nationality. The ratio of persons of active working age is 63.9% among the Armenians. Currently, there are no public educational institutions providing Armenian language teaching in Hungary. The former “Sunday school” of the National Armenian Self-Government has also ceased, consequently, the Armenian language cannot be learnt on an organised basis. There is no Armenian department or other opportunity in tertiary education for mastering the Armenian language or culture. 35.6% of the Armenians are university or college graduates, while the ratio of persons having no elementary school qualification is 10.8%. The census data do not provide the number of persons who speak Armenian. The ratio of persons with Armenian native language is 14.4% within the community, which means 444 persons in total (this number was 294 in 2001). 47.7% of Armenians living in Hungary are employed, 19.5% are dependants, 26.7% are inactively employed, while 6.1% in total are unemployed. The extension of the Armenian community can be mainly and presumably explained with slow but continuous immigration and with the activity of the community taking place more widely and with increasing media support.

(9) The number of those belonging to the **Romanian** community living in Hungary was multiplied by 2.4 between 2001 and 2011, i.e. their number reached 35,641. The ratio of those under the age of 14 was 7.5%, while that of persons above the age of 60 is 6,249 (17.5%) in the nationality. The ratio of persons of active working age reaches 65% of the community. Altogether 1,709 children take part in Romanian education in Romanian nationality educational institutions operating in Hungary (63.7% of persons under the age of 14). Among those declaring themselves to belong to the Romanian community, the ratio of persons having no elementary school qualification is 12.4%, while that of persons having tertiary qualification is 14.8%. The number of those speaking the Romanian language totalled 68,472 in Hungary in 2011, while the number of persons having Romanian native language was 13,886, which represents nearly 39 per cent of those belonging to the Romanian community (the number of persons of Romanian native language was 14,326 in 2001). 51.5% of Romanians living in Hungary are employed, 7.5% are unemployed, 24% are inactive and 17% are dependants. The National Self-Government of Romanians in Hungary was surprised at the data related to the Romanian nationality in the capital and nearby. This can result in a new situation in Romanian

public life which traditionally used to focus on Békés, Hajdú-Bihar and Csongrád counties. It is astonishing for the Romanian community that the increase in the number of persons belonging to this nationality in the community that used to particularly rely on Romanian Orthodox believers did not entail the increase in the number of persons belonging to the Romanian Orthodox Church.

(10) The number of persons belonging to the **Rusyn** community living in Hungary increased more than threefold (to 3,882 persons) between the two recent censuses. More specifically, the number of persons under the age of 14 is 299 (7.7%), of those above the age of 60 is 1,066 (28%), while the ratio of those belonging to the active population is 64.3% within the community. Altogether 115 children take part in Rusyn nationality education (this number represents 38.4% of persons under the age of 14) in the only kindergarten using and the two schools teaching the Rusyn language. The ratio of persons having no elementary school qualification is 11.3%, while that of persons with university or college graduates is 29.7% within the Rusyn community. The publications on census do not include the number of persons speaking the Rusyn language. The number of those declaring the Rusyn language as native language has decreased, 999 persons declared the Rusyn language their native language in 2011 (this number was 1,113 in 2001). Among the Rusyns living in Hungary, 44.8% are employed, 5.8% are unemployed, 31.7% are inactive and 17.7% are dependants. The National Rusyn Self-Government considered the increase in the number of those belonging to the community as a positive aspect; traditions and the Greek-Catholic religion can promote the renaissance of the language by developing Rusyn nationality education.

(11) Based on census data of 2011, the community of **Serbs** living in Hungary is composed of 10,038 persons after an increase by nearly 30% in the past decade. More specifically, the ratio of those under the age of 14 is 8.4%, while that of persons above the age of 60 is 37.3%. The ratio of those belonging to the active age groups is 53.3%. Altogether 339 children under the age of 14 take part in Serbian nationality programmes in public educational institutions educating in and teaching the Serbian language. The ratio of persons having no elementary school qualification is 11%, while that of university or college graduates is 26.7% within the Serbian community. The number of persons speaking the Serbian language was 13,408 in 2011. Among them, the number of those declaring the Serbian language as native language was 3,708, which represents 37% of those belonging to the Serbian community (the number of persons with Serbian native language was 3,388 in 2001). Among the Serbs living in Hungary, 47.7% are employed, 5.8% are unemployed, 23.0% are dependants and 23.7% are inactive. The National Serb Self-Government is worried about the fact that although the total number of the community increased, the number of persons belonging to the Serbian Orthodox Church, which used to follow the number of heads in the community, remained below expectations. The presence of communities in big towns (Debrecen, Győr) is also surprising for the Self-Government, and it considers the still non-existing group living in the capital, representing a quarter of the community and declaring itself as belonging to the Serbian community during the census as a factor capable of disturbing the internal balance of the community.

(12) The number of persons belonging to the **Slovak** community in Hungary was 35,208 in 2011. The ratio of those under the age of 14 was 7.3%, of persons above the age of 60 was 37.3% within the community. The ratio of those belonging to the active age groups is 55.4%. 5,902 children in total take part in Slovak language education in kindergartens educating in Slovak language and in primary schools providing Slovak nationality education. The ratio of persons having no elementary school qualification is 12.9%, while that of university or college graduates is 18.5% within the nationality. The number of persons speaking the Slovak language

in Hungary was 44,147 in 2011, while the number of persons having Slovak native language was 9,888, which represents 28.3 per cent of those belonging to the community (the number of persons having Slovak native language was 11,817 in 2001). Still, the National Slovak Self-Government (hereinafter: NSS) did not forget either that about 10% in total of the 35,208 persons declaring some Slovak self-identity or language ties are Slovak citizens who came to Hungary due to the new trends in border-region immigration. 39.6% of Slovaks in Hungary are employed, 41.1% are inactive, while the ratio of the unemployed is 4% and that of the dependants is 15.3%. The NSS considers the increase in the number of persons declaring themselves to be of Slovak nationality as a positive phenomenon but the fact that the number of persons belonging to the community and those having Slovak native language decreased between the two censuses although NSS conducted an intensive campaign before the census in the self-governments of the community and the settlements inhabited by them was taken as a negative feature. The high ratio of border-region immigrants in Győr–Moson–Sopron county and that of persons belonging to the Slovak community in Budapest and Pest county was surprising.

(13) The number of persons belonging to the *Slovene* nationality living in Hungary was 2,820 in total in 2011, which represents a significant decrease (above 40%). The ratio of those under the age of 14 is 6.4%, that of persons above the age of 60 is 34.2%, while that of persons of active working age is 59.4% within the community. The number of those participating in Slovene nationality language education was 98 in 2011, which represents nearly 55% of the age group under 14. The ratio of persons having no elementary school qualification is 12.5%, while that of university or college graduates is 14.5% within the Slovene community. The data series of the census do not include the aggregated number of persons speaking the Slovene language. The number of persons of Slovene native language is 1,723, which represents 61% of those belonging to the community (the number of persons of Slovene native language was 3,180 in 2001). 41.6 per cent of Slovene people living in Hungary are employed, 3.25% are unemployed, 40.5% are inactive and 14.7% are dependants. Based on the evaluation of the National Slovene Self-Government, the national data and the traditional, autochthon settlements of the nationality should reasonably be considered separately. In the local Slovene villages in Vas county, the number of persons belonging to this nationality has mainly increased. The ratio of those of Slovene native language is 99% within the community.

(14) The number of *Ukrainians* living in Hungary was 7,396 in 2011. The ratio of those under the age of 14 is 8.3%, of persons above the age of 60 is 16.2%, while that of persons of active working age is 75.3% within the community. The National Ukrainian Self-Government intends to provide the basics of Ukrainian language for the children belonging to the community in the form of “Sunday school” and in week-end kindergarten sessions. The ratio of persons having no elementary school qualification is 9.1%, while that of university or college graduates is 30.8% within the Ukrainian community. 12,508 persons spoke the Ukrainian language in Hungary in 2011, while the number of those having Ukrainian native language was 3,384 which represents 45.7% of persons belonging to the community. 44.8% of Ukrainians living in Hungary are employed, 8.2% are unemployed, 23% are inactive and 24% are dependants. Based on the opinion of the National Ukrainian Self-Government, the number of those belonging to the community has not changed significantly, the decrease in the data relating to native language, however, suggests that the community should organise any form of public education in Ukrainian. The ratio of the young people strengthens the community and thereby secures a next generation.

* * *

The principles of nationality policy in Hungary, the major elements of the legislation determining the frameworks of this policy were presented in detail in the country reports submitted in 1999, 2004 and 2009. To summarise the previous reporting periods, the nationalities living in Hungary established their representative organisations at local, regional and national level after the transformation of regime and the adoption of Act LXXVII of 1993 on the Rights of National and Ethnic Minorities. These bodies reorganised the public life of local minorities and expressed their expectations towards the local administration, and the Hungarian State with more or less success. In the meantime, the institutional system for the preservation, development and cultural autonomy of nationalities and the connection networks ensuring the potential support for homelands and mother countries have been formed and the form of cooperation supporting the institutional system has developed.

The Hungarian National Assembly adopted a *new Fundamental Law* in accordance with both Hungarian common law traditions and European standards in 2011, which initiated the renewal process of the legislation system underlying social and public life. As it is set out in the Fundamental Law, Hungary shall protect and support the nationalities living in its area ((1)-(3) of Article XXIX):

Nationalities living in Hungary shall be constituent parts of the State. Every Hungarian citizen belonging to a nationality shall have the right to freely express and preserve his or her identity. Nationalities living in Hungary shall have the right to use their mother tongue, to use names in their own languages individually and collectively, to nurture their own cultures, and to receive education in their mother tongues.

Nationalities living in Hungary shall have the right to establish their self-government at both local and national level.

The detailed rules relating to the rights of nationalities living in Hungary, the nationalities, the requirements for recognition as a nationality, and the rules for the election of the self-governments of nationalities at local and national level shall be laid down in a cardinal Act. A cardinal Act may provide that recognition as a nationality shall be subject to a certain length of time of presence and to the initiative of a certain number of persons declaring to be members of the nationality concerned.

In agreement with the affected persons, the new Fundamental Law introduces the term “nationality” instead of using the quantitative approach suggested by “national and ethnic minority”, so it returns to the centuries-old Hungarian tradition. (Because of that, the new terminology is used also in this report.)

Act CLXXIX of 2011 on the Rights of Nationalities, formed after the Fundamental Law, is progressively entering into force, while the conceptionally new rules will apply simultaneously with setting the subsequent general elections (in 2014).

Act CLXXIX of 2011 on the Rights of Nationalities (hereinafter: *Nationality Act*) adopted by the National Assembly in December 2011 summarises the individual and collective rights of nationalities living in Hungary, the legislative framework of the cultural autonomy of nationalities as well as the rules for the election, operation and management of nationality self-governments. The new Nationality Act still extends the scope of the individual and collective rights of nationalities to the groups living here as communities for hundred years, while the persons who arrived later as migrants have different rights. Ethnic groups traditionally living in Hungary according to the Nationality Act (listed in the English alphabetical order): *Armenian,*

Bulgarian, Croatian, German, Gypsy/Roma, Greek, Polish, Romanian, Rusyn, Serbian, Slovak, Slovene and Ukrainian. The conditions of nationalities living in Hungary are mainly identical with those of the majority, due to our economic, social, internal and external environment. The Nationality Act is a *cardinal act* regulating particularly and in more detail the involvement of nationalities in all areas of public life, and a result of this, the capacity of nationalities to assert their own interests and the accessibility of central budgetary support required will be strengthened.

In its report on Hungary², the Venice Commission considered the Nationality Act of 2011 democratic and serving the rule of law, and was of the opinion that the Hungarian Government had interest in cooperation with nationalities living in our country, and the new Nationality Act was in compliance with the international expectations on minority protection and was adapted to the domestic characteristics as well. The Commission recognised that Hungary continued paying particular attention to the protection of nationality rights and made efforts in order to protect the cultural and linguistic identity, traditions and cultural heritage of nationalities living in the country.

Laws and regulations relating to nationalities will be presented in detail in the following chapters.

Over the past 20 years, the local, regional and national self-government system of nationalities has been built in Hungary. Nationality self-governments play a significant role in the self-organisation of communities, the practical enforcement of participation rights and the extension of the cultural autonomy of nationalities.

Hungary was one of the first to sign the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (hereinafter: Charter of Languages) of the Council of Europe (hereinafter: CoE), similar to joining the Framework Convention. In the period covered in this Country Report, Hungary reported on the implementation of the Charter of Languages to the CoE twice. The conclusion in connection with the review of the documents of the Council of Europe for minority protection is that the internal legislation of Hungary provides broader rights for nationalities than the Framework Convention or the Charter of Languages in various areas.

* * *

The Country Report includes the description of all major measures and changes related to the implementation of the Framework Convention in Hungary in the reporting period. Special attention was paid to evaluating the implementation of recommendations in the Resolution of the Committee of Ministers and that of proposals in the detailed Opinion of the Advisory Committee. The structure of the Country Report was formed according to the Guideline of the Advisory Committee.

² **Opinion No. 671/2012, CDL-AD(2012)011**

[http://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/?pdf=CDL-AD\(2012\)011-e](http://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/?pdf=CDL-AD(2012)011-e)

Chapter I reports on measures for the follow-up of the results of the third round monitoring the implementation of the Framework Convention in Hungary. Information is provided here on government bodies directly affected in the implementation of tasks related to nationality policy, the work performed for the presentation of documents of minority protection, as well as the process and results of the involvement of non-governmental organisations and institutions in the implementation of the Framework Convention. The changes and governmental actions related to the issues in Section “Main statements” as part of the Hungary-related document no. ACFC/OP/III(2010)001 of the Advisory Committee are also presented in Chapter I.

Chapter II of the Country Report includes actions related to important issues for the implementation of recommendations in Resolution CM/ResCMN(2011)13 of the Committee of Ministers. Several aspects of the conditions of Roma people and social inclusion, the promotion of equal treatment, the results of the fight against discrimination, intolerance and hate speech, and the possibility of nationality representation in the Parliament were priority issues.

In Chapter III of the Country Report, gradually proceeding from article to article, further and more detailed information is provided on specific measures and events related to the reporting period based on the Framework Convention. These descriptions relate to actions aimed at improving the implementation of the Framework Convention.

In accordance with the structure recommended by the Advisory Committee, any special issues related to Hungary may be answered and presented in detail in Chapter IV of the Country Report. Such requests related to the reporting period, however, were not submitted.

The Annex of the Country Report contains the most important rules and documents related to the actions presented in Chapters I, II and III.

I. ACTIONS RELATED TO THE VISIBILITY OF RESULTS OF THE THIRD-ROUND MONITORING ASSESSMENT AND PRACTICAL MEASURES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION

Hungary took numerous steps in order to improve the implementation of the Framework Convention. Several important changes in legislation and practice were the part of this process which could be enforced as a result of a continuous, constructive dialogue between authorities and minorities.

Government bodies performing tasks directly affecting nationalities

The whole Hungarian policy, the Hungarian State and the Hungarian Government support the preservation of the ethnic identity of nationalities living in Hungary, the completion and development of their cultural autonomy as well as the preservation and saving of nationality languages and traditions by its own tools, financially, with infrastructure and morally. All players including the homelands of nationalities have a common interest in cooperation. The policy, the primary support of the National Assembly and the Government are reflected in the nationality-friendly transformation of the legislative environment as well as the establishment of budgetary opportunities. The Government has had the intention during the considerable social transformation in recent years that the rights of the vulnerable, small nationalities should not be injured, their opportunities should not be decreased.

We provide information on government organisations directly participating in the implementation of measures for following up the results of the third round monitoring the implementation of the Framework Convention in Hungary as well as in the implementation of recommendations in Resolution no. CM/ResCMN(2011)13 of the Committee of Ministers and in document no. ACFC/OP/III(2010)001 of the Advisory Committee as below.

(1) It was the **Prime Minister's Office** that was responsible for the coordination of government tasks related to nationalities in Hungary at the beginning of the reporting period starting on 1 February 2009 and evaluated here. The Prime Minister's Office included a State Secretariat for Minority and National Policy which was responsible for the coordination of tasks related to specialty areas at governmental level. Managed by the Secretary of State of the State Secretariat for Minority and National Policy of the Prime Minister's Office, a National and Ethnic Minority Department was in function.

After the change of government in 2010, the state tasks related to nationalities and the governmental coordination of the nationality policy were performed by the **Ministry of Public Administration and Justice** (hereinafter: KIM), and from May 2012, the **Ministry of Human Capacities** (hereinafter: EMMI) established from the extension of the Ministry of National Resources (NEFMI). During the establishment of the State Secretariat for Religious, Nationality and Civil Social Relations in EMMI, the elements of social policy that often overlap from various aspects came next to each other. Regarding nationality, such a context applies to the presence of churches (mainly Orthodox) of the individual nationalities as well as the non-governmental organisations (nationality nominating organisations) that are very active in nationality fields and have priority rights during nationality elections. As part of the State Secretariat for Religious, Nationality and Civil Social Relations of EMMI, it is the **Nationality Department** (hereinafter: Nationality Department) that currently works on cases related to nationalities; first of all, this area is responsible for the rights of nationalities and for issues related to them.

The *Unit for Nationality Relations* of the Nationality Department prepares the professional concept in connection with the establishment and modification of the legislation on the rights of nationalities and the tools for regulating public right organisations, and contributes to the preparation of drafts to government proposals and draft legislation. It follows the enforcement of the rights of nationalities in Hungary, in particular, the institutions of cultural autonomy of nationalities, and keeps contact with nationality self-governments as well as the interest advocacy, cultural and other organisations and representatives of the nationalities.

The *Unit for Nationality Support Management* operates the decision-making system of supports granted for operations related to nationality education. It performs the tasks related to the preparation of decisions on supports granted from nationality-aimed appropriations, coordinates the operation of the governmental support system of the nationalities in Hungary, monitors the use of dedicated budgetary resources, keeps contact with nationality self-governments as well as the interest advocacy, cultural and other organisations and representatives of nationalities.

By consulting with the State Secretariat for National Policy of KIM, the *Unit for Foreign Relations and Nationality Cultural Cooperation* contributes to the harmonisation of strategic aspects for national and nationality policy, keeps contact with the diplomatic representations of the homelands of nationalities living in Hungary and the international organisations. It prepares background documents for negotiations between Hungarian state leaders and politicians from the homelands of the nationalities, and replies the questions of European and global international organisations towards Hungary regarding nationality issues.

(2) With regard to the specific problems of the Roma nationality and due to the priority and key importance of the area, there are organisational units in the governmental structure specially managing this issue. In addition to the above, the activity of the *State Secretariat for Social Inclusion* is partly in close connection with the nationality issue. The work related to social inclusion and the Roma issue was also realised under the responsibility of several ministries during the reporting period. At the beginning of this reporting period, the Secretary of State for Equal Opportunity in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour was charged with controlling the implementation of tasks related to Roma integration. There was a Roma Integration Department in the competent ministry, playing a priority role in the promotion of social equal opportunities. This competent ministry coordinated the government tasks for supporting the equalisation of disadvantages related also to work, operated the scholarship system of the young Roma people and cooperated with organisations for protecting the rights and interests of Roma people. Additionally, the Ministry of Education and Culture had a Directorate General for Equal Opportunities, similarly mainly to fulfil Roma integration tasks. Finally, in 2010, the State Secretariat for Social Inclusion, a part of EMMI since 2012, was established within the framework of KIM, similar to the State Secretariat for Religious, Nationality and Civil Social Relations. Thus, this organisational unit is currently responsible for the coordination of disadvantaged social groups' including particularly Roma people's social integration.

(3) However, at the beginning of the reporting period, the Ministry of Education and Culture (hereinafter: OKM) and from 2010 the State Secretariat for Public Education of NEFMI, later of EMMI (Public Education Nationality Unit) has been coordinating the government tasks related to nationality education. Concerning the realisation of the cultural autonomy of nationalities, it is of high importance that the provision of tasks related to the public education of nationalities is also included in responsibilities of the State Secretariat for Public Education.

The tasks related to nationalities are partly provided by the State Secretariat for Culture of the Ministry of Human Capacities where first of all the area of public collections and theatre can be mentioned. The government work related to the cultural activity of nationalities belonged to the Directorate General for Equal Opportunities of OKM until 2010. Since that time, the coordination of the cultural area of nationalities has been also delegated to the State Secretariat for Religious, Nationality and Civil Social Relations (KIM/EMMI), although it partly continually belongs to the State Secretariat for Culture. The tasks of competent ministries related to the operation of nationality theatres have been provided by OKM, later the Department of Arts of EMMI. The Secretariat for Church Relations (in 2009) and the State Secretariat for Religious, Nationality and Civil Social Relations within KIM (from 2010) then EMMI has been part of the Ministry of Education and Culture.

The tasks related to support for nationalities are performed by the Fund Manager for Human Resources (hereinafter: EMET). (Before EMET, the Public Foundation for National and Ethnic Minorities in Hungary, then Wekerle Sándor Fund Manager was responsible for the tasks related to support.)

The government tasks related to the judicial supervision of nationality self-governments is performed by the State Secretariat for Regional Administration of the Ministry of Public Administration and Justice. The tasks connected to nationality self-government elections belong to the same institution.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs plays an active role in monitoring the international processes of the nationality policy as well as the international presentation of the nationality policy results of Hungary; it particularly relies on the Nationality Department of EMMI when providing this activity.

(4) The nationality policy strategy for the 2014-2020 period under preparation specifies that, while developing the actual government structure and apart from paying attention to preventing any parallel performance, it should be ensured that among the employees of the organisational unit coordinating nationality policy, persons belonging to nationalities and experts in the fields of self-government, culture, public education, tertiary education and media should be present in a ratio as high as possible. Accordingly, it can be ensured that all representatives having real professional knowledge in the area relevant to nationality public life are appropriately prepared for the establishment of initiatives for the individual professional areas and for a substantive and substantiated opinion of the materials related to the professional areas during the provision of coordination tasks. The colleagues belonging to nationalities and having due language competence promote the establishment and preservation of extensive international relations with homelands and international organisations.

(5) Additionally, nationality issues are represented by a parliamentary committee. The permanent committees of the National Assembly discuss and comment on the bills submitted and control the activity of ministers. The committees meet on a weekly basis. Verbatim reports accessible also on the homepage of the National Assembly are created about the meeting of committees. The principle of proportionality is applied in the majority of permanent committees, the committee seats are distributed in the proportion of mandates for parliamentary fractions. The committee chairs' meetings held on a weekly basis are intended for harmonising the activity of committees.

Based on the opinion of the Committee on Human Rights, Minority, Civic and Religious Affairs composed of 24 MPs, various areas of life and jurisdiction belong to its scope but justice is always in focus. Its activity serves the quality of human life, its objective is hearing and dialogue in order that social tension could be tolerated.

Apart from the permanent committees, the National Assembly can also establish ad hoc and inquiry committees.

(6) Apart from the relevant government bodies, nationality issues and regulations are also investigated by the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights (hereinafter: ombudsman). During the reporting period, the ombudsmen responsible for minority cases were the following: Dr. Ernő Kállai, Parliamentary Commissioner for the Rights of National and Ethnic Minorities (between 2007 and 2012), later Protector of Nationality Rights (from 2013); Mrs. dr. Szalay dr. Erzsébet Sándor. It should be noted that the parliamentary election of the new ombudsman fell within the current reporting period. Based on Act CXI of 2011 on the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights (previously: Act LIX of 1993 on the Parliamentary Commissioner for Civil Rights), the ombudsman is elected for a six-year term and may be re-elected once. Since the term of office of the previous ombudsman expired in 2013, a new person was elected for this position by the National Assembly on 11 September 2013.

According to the Fundamental Law (Article 30(3)): “The Commissioner for Fundamental Rights and his or her deputies shall be elected for six years with the votes of two-thirds of the Members of Parliament. The deputies shall defend the interests of future generations and the rights of nationalities living in Hungary.” Article 8 of the Nationality Act declares that the deputy of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights responsible for protecting the rights of nationalities living in Hungary shall pay attention to the enforcement of the rights of nationalities and take measures required based on specific legislation.

A minority ombudsman is applied only in few countries in the European legislation. Thus, Hungary has a leader practice in the continent both in its previous and current form. In accordance with the report on the activity of the ombudsman for 2012 „the Fundamental Law entering into force on 1 January 2012 has fully transformed the position of the ombudsman, the organisation and procedure thereof, however, it left its original function, the alternative, human rights-based reaction on maladministration associated with constitutional rights”. After the governmental transformation, a uniform commissioner system was formed; the ombudsman performs an activity related to the protection of fundamental rights for every fundamental right. Based on the transitional provisions of Act CXI of 2011 on the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights, the legal successor of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Citizens' Rights, the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Rights of National and Ethnic Minorities and the Parliamentary Commissioner for Future Generations shall be the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights. Consequently, instead of the previous three ombudsmen, the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights and two specialised subordinated deputies shall be in function. The competence of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights combines and - by terminating the parallelism related to some competences carried out by other constitutional bodies - unifies the competences of the previous three parliamentary commissioners, besides, the Commissioner's procedural options have been extended in several aspects. The reorganisation of the ombudsman's competence late 2011 was intended to ensure a uniform interpretation of the law and the establishment of legal certainty. The deputy of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights eventually has the same rights as the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Rights of National and Ethnic Minorities had, though he exercises them through the only ombudsman left in the new structure.

Measures for being aware of the documents of the Framework Convention

Information on results promoting the widespread understanding of the documents of the Framework Convention, the evaluation of the implementation of the Framework Convention in Hungary and the monitoring work is provided as follows.

(1) After the change of government and governmental transformation in 2010, the renewal of the public rights system was initiated, and apart from the Fundamental Law, the new Nationality Act was created. Because of reorganisation, follow-up did not take place in the traditional form (though the previous report and its results are naturally accessible via the internet and reports were also published in the media), however, the nationality issue was in focus due to the new regulation in a considerable part of the reporting period. In the first months of the new Nationality Act, not only the nationalities themselves and the related non-governmental organisations were in focus but also media interest could be observed and press news came out. The UN and the Council of Europe were informed on the law and the conditions of nationalities, apart from the inspection of the Venice Commission mentioned in the Introduction. In the spring of 2012, the Deputy Secretary of State for Nationality and Civil Social Relations and his colleagues visited several places in order to inform nationality communities living in Hungary on legislative changes. Additionally, nationality policy has been in focus in various conferences recently. Its purpose is to inform the affected people and share the results achieved in the relevant field. Several major presentations and conferences in connection with nationality issues are listed below for the reporting period, with particular attention to 2013, i.e. the latest events. The list expressly focuses on *presentations informing affected people*.

Participation at the level of Secretary of State, Deputy Secretary of State - László Szászfalvi, György Hölvényi, Dr. Csaba Latorcai:

- 9 December 2010: 16th Meeting of Minority Self-Governments - Local Government and Mayor's Office of the town Sátoraljaújhely (Sátoraljaújhely). Presentation. "Budgetary items of and opportunities for applications by minority self-governments in 2011" (*Dr. Csaba Latorcai*)
- 16 September 2011: Month of Serbian culture - Welcome speech (Budapest). (*Dr. Csaba Latorcai*)
- 2 November 2011: Labour Market Conference - Pécs. Presentation: "Strategic aspects of strengthening nationality and civil cooperation". (*Dr. Csaba Latorcai*)
- 16 May 2012: Roundtable discussion (Veszprém) - Association of Christian Intellectuals, presentation. (*László Szászfalvi*)
- 13 July 2012: Consultation - Association of National Minority Self-Governments (ONÖSZ) Amounts in the 2013 budget related to nationalities, chapter-managed appropriations of nationality supports, experience of task-based support, national minority self-governments and media, support of institutions maintained by national minority self-governments, status of tenders for nationalities. (*Dr. Csaba Latorcai*)
- 5 November 2012: 18th Interethnic Meeting of Nationality Self-Governments (Sátoraljaújhely) - "Support opportunities for nationalities in light of the new Nationality Act"- presentation. (*Dr. Csaba Latorcai*)
- 21 February 2013: Ukrainian Cultural Days, welcome speech (Budapest). (*Dr. Csaba Latorcai*)
- 2 May 2013: Workshop "Census - nationality-ethnic data 2011" - Association of National Minority Self-Governments (ONÖSZ). Within the framework of the workshop, the experts of the following institutions held presentations: Central

Statistical Office, Minority Research Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights. The representatives of nationalities indigenous in Hungary presented, commented and evaluated the census results related to their nationality. *(Dr. Csaba Latorcai)*

- 22 May 2013: Rusyn Celebration, welcome speech (Nyíregyháza). *(Dr. Csaba Latorcai)*
- 7 June 2013: Conference organised to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the foundation of Kőszegfalva - German Nationality Self-Government in Kőszeg, Friends of Kőszegfalva - Presentation: "Nationality strategy of the Hungarian Government". (Kőszegfalva) *(Dr. Csaba Latorcai)*
- 28 June 2013: Scientific Conference - The Museum and Archive of Polish Community in Hungary. Description of the Nationality Act. (Budapest) *(Dr. Csaba Latorcai)*
- 12 September 2013: The Museum and Archive of Polish Community in Hungary welcomed the jubilee institution and the authors of the book at the celebration organised on the occasion of publishing the book with selected publications from the 15-year-long existence of the institution. (Budapest) *(Dr. Csaba Latorcai)*
- Between 7 and 13 October 2013: 10th Meeting of Nationality Theatres - Association of Hungarian Nationality Theatres. The festival staged 16 performances by 11 nationalities' 16 theatres in 3 venues, 8 languages, in 7 days. Presented by: German, Romanian, Ukrainian, Bulgarian, Gypsy, Armenian, Pole, Serb, Croat, Greek, Slovak groups. *(Patron-in-chief: Dr. Csaba Latorcai)*
- 7 October 2013: National Library Days (Tatabánya) - „Enforcement of nationality cultural rights after the report of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the year 2010, with particular attention to nationality library supply”. *(Dr. Csaba Latorcai)*
- 17 October 2013: Project closure event under the title “Establishment of Volunteer Points and Services of the Subregion of Mosonmagyaróvár” - Cinka Panna Roma Cultural Association. (Mosonmagyaróvár) *(Dr. Csaba Latorcai)*
- 25 October 2013: Polish Forum - National Polish Self-Government, Polish Nationality Self-Government, Békéscsaba. Presentation on the novelty of the Nationality Act and the nationality aspect of next year's elections. (Békéscsaba) *(Dr. Csaba Latorcai)*
- 7 November 2013: Tenders for 2014 of the National Cooperation Fund - Civil Information Centre, Bács-Kiskun County Training for the representatives of NGOs in the county. (Kecskemét) *(Dr. Csaba Latorcai)*
- 11 November 2013: Gala concert organised by the Polish Nationality Self-Government in Veszprém on the occasion of the Polish Independence Day. (Veszprém) *(Dr. Csaba Latorcai)*
- 20 November 2013: Conference on nationalities' right to vote - State Secretariat for Religious, Nationality and Civil Social Relations, EMMI, The rights to self-governance of persons belonging to nationalities, in light of the Fundamental Law and Nationality Act. (Budapest) *(Dr. Csaba Latorcai)*
- On a regular basis: Presentations on events organised within the framework of the Educational E-book and Multimedia programme “Heritage - Culture”. (Budapest) *(Dr. Csaba Latorcai and/or Nationality Department)*
- On a regular basis (in the reporting period: 7 October 2011, 23 November 2012): Conference on cross-relationships in the Carpathian Basin. Presentation. *(Patron-in-chief: Secretary of State György Hölvényi)*

Participation at the level of the Nationality Department:

- 13 September 2010: Conference series under the title “Nationality schools in Hungary, Slovakia and Slovenia” - Cultural Association of Mura-District Friends (Budapest). Presentation. *(Dr. András Bertalan Székely)*
- 24 September 2010: International conference - 20th anniversary of the Slovene-Hungarian Youth Archival Research Camp (Szentgotthárd). Presentation. “Hungarian-Slovene relations since the change of the system, with particular attention to nationalities”. *(Dr. András Bertalan Székely)*
- November 2011: “Ask the librarian in your native language”. Presentation at the conference of the National Library of Foreign Literature. *(Antal Paulik)*
- 15 September 2012: Roma conference (Zalaszentgrót) “Changes related to support for nationalities, with particular attention to budgetary plans, the support system and task-based support in 2013”. *(Dr. András Bertalan Székely)*
- 17 October 2012: Professional event - Roma Minority Self-Government, Berettyóújfalu, with participation of Roma self-governments operating in Bihar region Changes in the new regulations and task-based funding of the Nationality Act. *(Mrs. Árpád Kovács)*
- 24 July 2013: Summer University - Antall József Knowledge Centre of Political and Social Sciences. International workshop: “Multiculturalism - trap or opportunity?”. Presentation: “Cultural diversity - Nationality policy in Hungary” *(Rita Héjj)*
- August 2013: Island („Sziget“) Festival - Civil Island (Budapest) or Transit Festival (Kőszeg). State secretariats' stand and games with visitors *(Nationality Department)*
- 1 September 2013: National school year opening ceremony (Debrecen) - State secretariats' stand and games with visitors *(Richárd Tircsi)*
- 21 September 2013: Roma cultural day with the participation of county Roma minority self-governments and Roma NGOs, information forum - Roma Minority Self-Government in Zala County. (Zalaszentgrót) - Presentation: Task-based support, preparations for the nationality elections of 2014 and current nationality issues. *(Mrs. Árpád Kovács)*
- 4 October 2013: Mór - Presentation: “Representation of nationalities and funding of tasks related to nationalities” *(Richárd Tircsi)*
- 21 November 2013: Professional training - Hajdú-Bihar County Government Office, for notaries and local nationality representatives (Debrecen). Presentation: Task-based support and preparations for the nationality elections of 2014. *(Mrs. Árpád Kovács)*
- 6 December 2013: Roundtable Conference - “200-years-old professional Serb theatrical performance”. National Theatre (Budapest). Welcome speech. *(Dr. András Bertalan Székely)*
- On a regular basis: Regeneration Governmental Career Expo (Budapest) - State secretariats' stand and information supply to anyone interested Based on the programme adopted by the Government, young scholarship holders with university degrees and interested in public administration have the chance from 2010 to acquire domestic and foreign experience in public administration during a one-year internship at various ministerial departments. *(Nationality Department)*

Presentations particularly related to education:

- 24 June 2013: Cross-border Youth Archival Research Camp - 23rd Slovene-Hungarian Youth Archival Research Camp Opening speech. (Szentgotthárd) (*Dr. Csaba Latorcai*)
- 30 August 2013: Naming and school dedication ceremony - Károlyi Bernát Language Teaching German Nationality Elementary School. (Almáskamarás) (*Dr. Csaba Latorcai*)
- 1 September 2013: School year opening ceremony of the Slovak-Hungarian Bilingual Elementary School and Student Hostel. (Sátoraljaújhely) (*Dr. Csaba Latorcai*)
- 2 September 2013: School year opening ceremony of Nikola Tesla Serbian Language Kindergarten, Primary School, Secondary Grammar School and Student Hostel. (Budapest) (*Dr. Csaba Latorcai*)
- 12 September 2013: 1st Civil Summer University in Csongrád County - Evaluation of the 1.5 years of the new Civil Act. (Szeged) (*Dr. Csaba Latorcai*)
- 22 September 2013: Meeting of the Association of National Minority Self-Governments (Pag island/Croatia) - Presentation: "The future of nationality language teaching in light of the modified regulations". (*Dr. Csaba Latorcai*)

International discussions:

- 13 December 2011: The State Secretariat for Religious, Nationality and Civil Social Relations and the State Secretariat for Social Inclusion of KIM presented the conditions of nationalities in Hungary and Hungary's nationality policy to the delegation from the Chinese partner ministry.
- 12 September 2012: Language Charter Expert Committee - monitoring visit (*Preparation, organisation and implementation: State Secretariat for Religious, Nationality and Civil Social Relations*)
- 15 July 2013: organisation of a meeting and study visit for the sinologist delegation to the international conference (Vienna) "European symposium on issues related to ethnic and other minority groups". (Budapest and Pest county) (*Dr. Csaba Latorcai*)
- On a regular basis: meetings and consultations with the ministers of the nationalities' homelands (*Minister Zoltán Balog, Secretary of State György Hölvényi, Deputy Secretary of State dr. Csaba Latorcai*)
- On a regular basis: meetings and consultations with the ambassadors and other representatives of homelands (State Secretariat for Religious, Nationality and Civil Social Relations, Nationality Department)

(2) In addition, the *Award For Ethnic Minorities* ceremony is organised on an annual basis. The UN Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities was adopted on 18 December 1995, and this day was declared as Minorities' Day by the Government. Since 2012, 'Day of Nationalities' has been used instead of the old name. During the period of the Day of Nationalities, regional, county and local events, exhibitions, cultural presentations and award ceremonies take place all over the country. This is the day when the *Award for Ethnic Minorities* (from 2012: *Award for Nationalities*) is handed over to persons and organisations performing outstanding activities in the field of public life, education, culture, church life, science, media and economic self-organisation in favour of

these communities. The award is handed over by the Prime Minister upon the proposal of the Hungarian Nationality Committee presented through the Minister for Nationality Policy.

The National Institute for Culture (older names: Hungarian Institute for Culture, Hungarian Institute for Culture and Art) organised the *Nationality Gala* in connection with the Days of Nationalities (older name: Days of Minorities) in December, in every year of the reporting period, and it handed over the professional award *Pro Cultura Minoritatum Hungariae*. A medal and an honorary diploma accompany the award for the recognition of cultural and community cultural activity. The award may be given to persons or organisations who/that belong to nationalities in Hungary (Armenian, Bulgarian, Croatian, German, Greek, Polish, Roma, Romanian, Rusyn, Serbian, Slovak, Slovene and Ukrainian), have performed an outstanding activity for preserving and developing the native language-based cultural heritage within the nationalities living in Hungary, and contribute to the coexistence of people of the Carpathian Basin by their activities (e.g. cultural public life, community culture, nationality media, non-professional arts, sponsorship of nationality culture etc.). The awards are handed over once a year, their value is reflected in the festival programme of the Nationality Gala organised by the National Institution for Culture. In recent years, either the President of the National Assembly or the Minister for (inter alia) Nationality Culture has been the patron-in-chief of the gala, who represented themselves personally or through a high commissioner several times. The programmes were in every case realised at a high level, amidst ceremonial formalities, with the participation of eminent actors of nationality public life and the diplomats of the homelands

(3) The Commissioner for Fundamental Rights (previously: Parliamentary Commissioner for the Rights of National and Ethnic Minorities) makes a report on issues in its competence - among others, regarding nationalities - for the National Assembly. The reports made by the ombudsman also refer to issues included in the Framework Convention. Dr. Ernő Kállai, Parliamentary Commissioner for the Rights of National and Ethnic Minorities states in his report of 2009: “the vast majority of our cases were initiated on private persons' complaints. Their distribution among the 13 minority communities continues to reflect their number in society.” Besides, „educational and, more preferably, social issues reflecting the status of the society are more and more typical”.

In the report of 2010, with priority focus on the evaluation of local minority self-government election, the ombudsman drew the attention to some malpractices, which is also reflected in the surprising, approx. 13% increase in the number of regional minority self-governments. “It was already quite sure during the elections of 2006 that legal regulations cannot prevent the possibility of establishing pseudo-minority self-governments. Despite this fact, nothing was done in order to close the “legal loopholes”. This is why, during the comprehensive consultation prior to preparation of the Act, the nationalities themselves required that the new regulation be stricter with regard to the operation of nationality self-governments, which is also included in the Nationality Act of 2011. The Venice Commission noted that minority protection is an especially difficult and detailed task regarding nationality self-governments. This can be explained by the fact that the relevant rules were expected to be specified as precise and detailed as possible during the consultations with nationalities.

The annual reports of the ombudsman and the documents for minority protection of the Council of Europe are available on the internet: www.ajbh.hu.

(4) According to the provision of the Nationality Act (Article 150), the Government shall review the conditions of nationalities living in Hungary every two years and report on it to the

National Assembly. Such a document was submitted to the National Assembly twice in the reporting period. The government report summarising the period between February 2009 and February 2011 was made by the Ministry of Public Administration and Justice and was approved by the National Assembly in October 2011, in Resolution no. 79/2011 (of 28.10.) OGY. The latest report, which was adopted by the National Assembly on 25 November 2013, reflects the changes in the conditions of nationalities in the period between February 2011 and February 2013. The report for the National Assembly, adopted in Decision 98/2013 (of 27.11.) OGY includes the description of governmental actions for improving the conditions of nationalities in order to widely enforce their rights granted by the Nationality Act. From the aspect of nationality policy, apart from the Fundamental Law and the Nationality Act, the most important event of the period discussed in the report is the formation of educational, electoral laws relating to nationalities. This legislation has considerably transformed the work of self-governments related to nationalities, extended the opportunities of educational and cultural autonomy, met the conditions for nationalities to get subjective rights to become involved in the activity of the National Assembly. The governmental reports are published in the form of books as well.

(5) The enforcement of the principle of equal treatment has still been controlled and supported by the Equal Treatment Authority (hereinafter: ETA) as an administrative body of national competence. ETA has been in function since 1 February 2005, it is seated in the capital, however, as a main rule, the administrators of the authority hold the negotiations at the self-government competent at the complainant's residence during the administrative procedure. The project „Strengthening fight against discrimination, social perception management and the work of the authority“ (SoROP-5.5.5.), launched on 1 April 2009 and terminated on 30 June 2014, enabled that a rapporteur network for equal treatment was formed as of 1 September 2009, where lawyers provide free consultation to complainants in county seats every week and visit small regions for similar purposes. Their clients can receive not only advice but also professional support for the preparation of application to be submitted to the authority, and the rapporteurs help forward the application to the authority. Information related to the work of ETA and connected to, among others, the implementation of the Framework Convention is available on the homepage www.egyenlobanasmod.hu. Important information related to official procedures is accessible in the native language of the nationalities on the homepages where case descriptions as well as the summary of several cases of priority importance are given in English.

(Comprehensive information on the activity of the Equal Treatment Authority is provided in Chapter II and, in connection with Article 4 of the Framework Convention, in Chapter III.)

(6) The State Secretariat for Religious, Nationality and Civil Social Relations of EMMI is presented on the electronic portal of the Government in order to make the government work related to nationalities and the information connected to their life more general. The news and documents relating to the Framework Convention and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages are available on the homepage www.kormany.hu. For nationalities living in Hungary refer also to the homepage <http://emberijogok.kormany.hu>.

Involvement of non-governmental organisations in the implementation of the Framework Convention

(1) The novelty of the reporting period is that the Government promotes the participation of nationalities in the evolution of nationality policy and their relevant issues: this is guaranteed by the strategic partnership agreement concluded with the presidents of the 13 national minority self-governments, which will be presented in detail in Chapter II. In addition, a special agreement was made with the nationality reaching the highest number in Hungary, the Roma community. The framework agreement (hereinafter: Framework Agreement) reached between the Government and the National Roma Self-Government (hereinafter: NRSNG) on 20 May 2011 specified the objectives of the co-decision system between the Government and NRSNG as well as the major measures aimed at achieving the common objectives, in connection with the tasks (determined with the intention to promote the social inclusion of the Roma and the efficient inclusion of the Roma population) included in Government Decision 1136/2011 (of 02.05.) on Certain Short-term Measures Promoting Social Inclusion.

(2) Based on the provisions of the Nationality Act, nationalities are allowed to establish self-government institutions or take over existing cultural and educational institutions operated by other maintainers. The central budget provides financial resources for the practical enforcement of the nationality communities' cultural autonomy. (We provide comprehensive information on these issues in Chapter III of the Country Report, in the part on actions related to Articles 5 and 12 of the Framework Convention.)

(3) All persons concerned were involved in the compilation of this Country Report, i.e. the national minority self-governments representing the entire relevant nationality and one NGO by nationality, the most important one, as appropriate, were consulted. Based on the replies received (from not every addressed organisation), some evaluations related to the reporting period are provided as follows.

(4) The representatives of the *Croatian community* informed on the following. The Association of Croats in Hungary (hereinafter: Association) is a common, separate, democratic organisation of the Croats in Hungary which is independent of political parties, is organised on a voluntary basis, and exercises its activity in six equal regions in accordance with the historical and geographical regional position of the Croat nationality living in Hungary. Based on the decision of the members, the Association was established in order to efficiently enforce the common interests of Croat people living in Hungary. It has been representing and protecting the rights, including the collective and individual interests of the Croats living in Hungary since the foundation in 1990, for more than twenty years. It preserves and develops the national consciousness and identity of the Croat population, maintains its cultural traditions and native language. In the reporting period, the Association was actively involved in the preparation of the national, county and local nationality elections, and has been playing a significant role in the establishment of Croatian self-governments. In the previous electoral terms, in 2006 and 2010, the members of the General Assembly and the leaders of the National Croat Self-Government were practically elected only from the Association's list. The same is valid for four counties inhabited by Croats. During the elections, nationality non-governmental organisations of national competence execute a very important political and social mission through the active involvement, intention and confident activity of the members. The Association's budget is covered by tenders; the most important challenge in the budget was the post-funding of the programmes since the numerous minor member organisations were not able to pre-finance the planned events, consequently, did not submit any tender.

The National Croatian Day has a priority role among the widespread, traditional and community-forming programmes of the Association: it is organised in a rotational system, in

always other regional centres, on an annual basis. The Presidents of the Croatian and Hungarian Republic as well as other high-ranking dignitaries from Hungary and the homeland have personally paid their duty at the event in recent years. The financial background of the local or national community culture programmes was covered from (apart the successful tenders) contributions paid by the members and from sponsorship. The Association operates the 10-year-old "Croatica" Cultural, Information and Publishing Ltd. (which provides high quality services for the Croats living in Hungary and other countries) jointly with the National Croat Self-Government. These services include the printing of the weekly magazine "Hrvatski glasnik" and other periodicals, books and publications; the publication of CD's; the preparation and broadcasting of the programme of the Croatian web radio; and the organization of conferences. The Association played an active part in the work of the Nationality Council established by the National Institute for Culture, which organized numerous high-standard extension trainings, exhibitions, meetings, conferences mainly for the civil nationality society. The Association delegates a member to the Nationality Working Group of the Human Rights Working Group of the Ministry of Public Administration and Justice.

(5) The representatives of the *Armenian community* provided the following information. Armenians in Hungary have lived together with the Hungarians in common fate for centuries, and consider the country their native land and home country.

The cultural and advocacy organization of Hungary's historical Armenian nationality (about 15-20 thousand people) is the *Armenian Roots in Transylvania Cultural Association* founded in 1997. Since its foundation, one of its objectives has been to have the now Hungarian native language and the Armenian Catholic-Roman Catholic religion of the descendants of the Armenians who had settled in the Carpathian Basin 350 years ago acknowledged. This was finally achieved by the entry into force of the Nationality Act: Section 22 (1) of the Act recognizes the Hungarian language of the Armenian nationality (besides the Roma), in addition to their original language. The Armenian Roots in Transylvania Cultural Association organizes cultural programmes in cooperation with the district and capital-level nationality self-governments. Such an activity is e.g. the publication of the monthly Armenian Roots in Transylvania Booklets, the running of the Armenian Club in Budapest, as well as book publication, the maintenance of the Armenian Catholic temple and religious life. They conserve, seek and review their intellectual and tangible built cultural heritage to preserve it for the future generations. The *Armenian Roots in Transylvania Booklets*, started up by the Association, now closing its 17th year, is a free cultural and informative monthly (the only Armenian monthly in the Hungarian native language), connecting the Hungarian-Armenians living in diaspora all over the world, which is also reflected on the website www.magyarormeny.hu. The Association has so far published 21 books as a publisher – of which they have recently, since 2009 supported 7 books and 2 DVD's, as well as the publishing of a number of Armenian-related books.

The Association organized the Week of the Armenian Culture event series for the third time in 2009. The greatest event in 2013 was *Far away from the Ararat – the Day of the Armenian Culture in the Carpathian Basin*, which included international exhibitions, an international conference and the publication of a catalogue. The programme series, implemented with several years' work and a large sum of aid by the Ministry, was the first to present the cultural heritage of the Hungarian-Armenians in the frames of a large-scale exhibition. The programme series was realized in cooperation with the National Széchényi Library and Budapest History Museum. The Association created close cooperation with the Hungarian-Armenian communities beyond the borders – mainly in Transylvania and in Vojvodina (today: Serbia) – for the sake of preserving the common built heritage (temples, cemeteries, memorials etc.).

The *People of Armenia Cultural Association* keeps together the Armenians who arrived in the twentieth century, the so-called Eastern Armenians. It was founded in 1992, and its tasks include to hold the cultural activities of the Armenian civil organizations and minority self-governments together, promote and harmonize the realization of the socio-cultural efforts of Armenians in Hungary. They organize cultural events (exhibitions, presentations), the education of the native language, as well as consultations in the capital city and in a number of venues in the country. They support the development of general cultural and commercial connections between Hungary and Armenia and the associated information flow, the broadening of communication possibilities between the two countries, the development of tourism, as well as the organization of related consultancy. If necessary, they provide humanitarian assistance to those in need. They have been publishing a bilingual (later only Armenian) magazine since 1995, titled *Ararat*, later *Armenia*, they operate Internet websites and publish books. They have made two theatre performances and a number of film productions. They have erected stone crosses, military memorials and memorial plaques in the capital city and at other places in the country, and also in Yerevan as a memento of the Hungarian prisoners of war who had died there.

(6) The representatives of the ***Polish community*** supplied the following information. With the assistance of the Hungarian and Polish state and by utilizing tender opportunities, the Poles in Hungary conduct significant cultural activities, preserve their traditions, treat their language, and last but not least ensure that the young are brought up in the spirit of Polish-Hungarian friendship. The nationalities, including the Poles, exercised their right to communicate their opinion during the preparation of the Nationality Act, which was heard in several cases. The census of 2011 provided significant support for the national self-government in specifying the number of the Polish community more accurately. The National Polish Self-Government has a monthly magazine "*Polonia Węgierska*", with a quarterly annex: "*Głos Polonii*". The quality of the newspaper has improved and its readership has increased, also thanks to its publication also on the website of the Self-Government. The www.polenia.hu page reports about the events of the Polish nationality with almost daily accuracy. The State Secretariat for Religious, Nationality and Civil Social Relations of EMMI has also acknowledged the activities of the Poles with its "For the Nationalities" Prize. The Polish Personal Parish in Hungary and the Polish Temple were rewarded in 2009, the National Polish Language School in 2010, and the following two public figures were rewarded in 2012: *Wesołowski Andrzej*, former national and local representative, founding member of *Bem József Polish Cultural Association* in Hungary; and *Szadai Bożena Bogdańska*, journalist, website editor and radio reporter, for their excellent service they have done for the Poles in Hungary.

The Polish Personal Parish of Budapest-Kőbánya and St. Adalbert Association of Polish Catholics in Hungary (affiliated to the Parish) are a significant cohesive force in terms of the religious life of the Poles in Hungary. The seat of St. Adalbert Association of Polish Catholics in Hungary (hereinafter: Association) is the Polish House situated next to the Polish temple in Kőbánya consecrated in 1930. Primarily religious exhibitions, scientific conferences, book presentations and saint's days are organized in the Polish House. The spiritual counsellor of the community is the parish priest of the Polish Personal Parish, that is why the Association organizes many of its cultural programmes in close cooperation with the Polish Temple. The Polish House is a priority religious, social and cultural institution of the Poles in Hungary where Hungarians and Poles can meet after every mass. The House participates in the preservation of Polish cultural heritage, in nurturing Hungarian-Polish cultural traditions and in nationality activities in Hungary. The Polish Christian Cultural Days are traditionally organized every October, and the Association also commemorates the Polish Constitution Day in a

concert held in the garden of the Polish House on 3 May every year. The House enriches the cultural life of the Poles in Hungary with exhibitions presenting Polish and Hungarian artists' works, and in literature evenings. The Polish House also accommodates the editorial staff of the highly popular Polish quarterly "Quo Vadis" and the actual Polish calendar. The Polish House offers a library, a computer room and a club room for the visitors; the members of the Polish community can visit the weekly choir rehearsals and the Saturday mini kindergarten – with two groups from 2013 – as well as cultural programmes in the Polish language. Besides St. Adalbert Association, there is a number of other Polish civil organizations, among others the oldest Polish association in Hungary: Bem József Polish Cultural Association in Hungary, this year 55 years old, as well as Derenk Association. The main tasks of the latter are to hold together the Poles who origin from Derenk, the only Polish village in Hungary and to preserve the traditions of the Historical Memorial Place in Derenk, for which the association receives remarkable annual support from the National Polish Self-Government and the Polish Cultural Centre maintained by the Self-Government.

(7) The representatives of the *Rusyn community* provided the following information about events. The National Rusyn Minority Self-Government (abbreviated as: NRMSG) organizes the traditional Antal Hodinka Memorial Days and the associated memorial conference, award ceremony and wreath-laying every year; and the Rusyn National Day with cultural and religious programmes (e.g. in Miskolc–Görömböly which celebrated its 300th anniversary in 2012). The Feast of Virgin Mary, also yearly and traditionally organized at the Open Air Museum (Skansen) of Szentendre, strengthens togetherness and the need to treat the native language. Ferenc II Rákóczi Days, organized and supported by several Rusyn nationality self-governments, date back several years now and always attract crowds. The census of 2011 was a challenge for the representatives and also for the members of the community.

In 2009, they operated an International Artists' Colony in Balatonföldvár and held the Christmas ceremonies. The highlight of 2010 were the local government elections; several forums, meetings and extension trainings were organized; and the National Rusyn Nationality Self-Government (NRMSG), using tender aid, organized the National Greek-Catholic Church Conference in Máriapócs. The tomb of their greatest scientist, Antal Hodinka, Professor and Head of Institute, was inaugurated in Budapest in 2011. In 2011, the Rusyn community in Hungary visited the traditional events in unprecedented numbers and enthusiasm. This shows that the Rusyn community grows and strengthens, and finds togetherness and the preservation of traditions important. So, an important event in 2011 was the 11th Rusyn World Congress; and the National Rusyn Self-Government (abbreviated as: NRSNG) played a considerable role in the organization, arrangement and financing thereof. In June 2011 a one-week Rusyn Youth Arts Camp was organized again in Balatonföldvár; apart from NRSNG, the Chairmen and Representatives of several Rusyn nationality self-governments took an active part in its successful arrangement and financing.

The National Self-Government held the Rusyn Saint's Day for the first time on 1 September 2012. The stock of the Library of Rusyns in Hungary has also grown, the scope of publications released by the Rusyn communities living in the neighbouring countries has been enriched by a set of valuable old and new publications. The National Rusyn Self-Government (NRSNG) organized a 10-day camp at Lake Balaton for the "Ruthenata" Children's Ensemble of 20 children in 2012, where they learnt Rusyn folk songs, poems and dances. The members of the ensemble, as well as 6 students in primary, secondary and tertiary education received NRSNG scholarship. However, the probably most important event of the year was the successful application for SoROP- 3.4.1. A-11/1-2012-2014. A number of linguists, musicians, historians and painters were involved in the creative work of writing and publishing the school books in the Rusyn language. Several Rusyn nationality self-governments jointly organized three

children's camps in 2013. Besides the treatment of the native language, the children could take part in tradition activities, cultural and religious programmes in the camps.

The Association of Ruthenes/Rusyns in Hungary (abbreviated as: ARH) was founded in 1993. One of the most important objectives of ARH is to preserve the Rusyn language and traditions, and to organize and arrange national and Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county regional events. The Association has an initiating role in preserving the memory of prince Ferenc II Rákóczi, and in arranging the yearly festivity (church liturgy, commemoration, show, wreath-layings). ARH organizes an international conference in a theme chosen from the scope of the current nationality policy issues in September every year, accompanied by folk song and dance presentations, roundtable conferences and discussion forums.

(8) The representatives of the *Slovak community* gave the following information. One of the most highlighted events of the reporting period for the Slovaks in Hungary was the census of 2011. The National Slovak Self-Government appreciated that the number of people declaring themselves Slovak has grown, however, the number of those who consider the Slovak language their native language has continued to decrease, which is a warning sign. The National Slovak Self-Government attaches importance to the adoption of the Nationality Act which, in accordance with the Self-Government's previous initiatives and proposals, eliminated the election of electors because it caused a number of anomalies and disparities in their self-government system. The Self-Government is convinced that direct nationality self-government elections in autumn 2014 will bring positive changes at the regional and national level. Furthermore, NSS appreciated that the national minority self-governments had been involved in the preparatory phase of the new Fundamental Law – in accordance with the strategic partnership agreement concluded with the Minister of Public Administration and Justice and the legislation in force. The extensive institutional system of the National Slovak Self-Government was expanded by a further important element in the reporting period, in addition to the self-governmental Office established compulsorily as an independent budgetary institution. As of 1 September 2013, the National Slovak Self-Government took over the maintainer's and operator's rights of the Slovak Bilingual Elementary School and Kindergarten in Tótkomlós. Thus, the National Slovak Self-Government now directly manages four of the five priority Slovak or Slovak bilingual public educational institutions of the country (and plans to take over the maintainer's and operator's rights of the fifth one, the Slovak Complex of Budapest in 2014). The maintainer is responsible for altogether about 1230 pre-school children, primary- and secondary school students, as well as 180 employees in the four institutions already taken over (Szarvas, Békéscsaba, Sátoraljaújhely, Tótkomlós).

With the comprehensive reform of public education introduced in Hungary on 1 January 2013, 36 Slovak nationality primary schools and the Slovak language complex of Budapest were brought under state maintenance. In this regard, the National Slovak Self-Government paid special attention to the county-level development plans, and using its right to agreement, considered fundamental changes necessary with regard to preference for nationality education. For the Slovak national schools which have been brought under state maintenance, the National Slovak Self-Government seeks efficient cooperation with Klebelsberg Institution Maintenance Centre and its concerned school districts. The National Slovak Self-Government agreed with the increase of obligatory number of lessons in primary schools teaching the Slovak language. It was actively engaged in the SoROP EU project launched for the supply of school books and educational aids.

The construction of the Centre of Slovaks of the Pilis in Pilisszentkereszt, from Hungarian and Slovakian government subsidy totalling HUF 262 million, was an important achievement in the development of the institutional system of the National Slovak Self-Government. The building is in the possession of the National Slovak Self-Government, the asset management right has been granted to the Slovak Cultural Centre whose regional office operates the house. In accordance with the intergovernmental agreements, the house is used by the local Slovak self-government and the regional association of the Pilis in a ratio of 50-50%, but it is open also to the other Slovak self-governments and organizations of the region.

The National Slovak Self-Government stated that the daily 2-hour broadcast of the Slovak nationality programme on the MR4 channel of the public radio is considered adequate. They also appreciate that the weekly 25-minute Slovak TV programme Domovina is replayed on Duna TV on Tuesday mornings. Furthermore, in the field of Slovak language information, the state aid for the Slovak-language weekly of NSS, *Ludové noviny* amounting to HUF 34.8 million is now already included in the Budget Act and not granted through a tender, which the National Self-Government finds an important positive change. NSS has from start been intensively engaged in "Heritage-Culture" Educational E-Library Programme digitizing and publishing the cultural materials of the nationalities of Hungary. Upon their call, almost 40 local and regional Slovak self-governments followed their example in 2013.

(9) The representatives of the *Slovenian community* provided the following information. After the minority self-government elections of 2010, 11 municipal minority self-governments were founded and continued operation in the rest of the reporting period. There has been a significant change also in the fields of cultural autonomy, the take-over and operation of nationality institutions and - through EU projects - in the field of economy. The National Slovenian Self-Government founded and operated a new institution (Slovenian Village House, Kùhár Memorial House) in the reporting period. In the field of native language education, two new educational institutions have been established / taken over by the National Slovenian Self-Government. Due to the institutions newly founded and taken over, the amount of budgetary support has significantly increased, most of which is incorporated into the central budget. They could maintain and preserve the results achieved in the fields of community culture, tradition preservation and amateur arts activities.

The Association of Slovenians in Hungary was founded in 1990. The Association was responsible for the political representation of Slovenians in Hungary until 1995 when the National Slovenian Self-Government was established and took over those responsibilities. Since then, the Association has been operating as a non-governmental organization. Its main task is to treat and develop the Slovenian native language and culture. It supports and coordinates the operation of the cultural groups and edits the weekly *Porabje*. The Association founded Szlovén Vidék Nonprofit Kft. (Slovenian Rural Non-profit Ltd.) in 2007 with the main responsibilities to develop the economic life of the Raba region and to obtain EU funds. The relationship of the Association of Slovenians in Hungary with Hungarian political, cultural and other organizations was good and fruitful in this reporting period, too. Their organization delegates a member to the Hungarian division of the Slovenian-Hungarian Minority Joint Committee founded on the basis of the bilateral Convention for the Protection of Minorities signed in 1992; therefore, they have achieved numerous results in all fields of the life of the Slovenian nationality in recent years.

(10) On 14 February 2013 a working group responsible for nationality issues was established at the initiative of the Government, involving NGOs. The function of this body is to assist the

Government by legislative proposals and policy advice, and contribute to the preparation of the Government's concept on nationality policy. The sub-committee operates within the framework of the Human Rights Working Group; the participants of its inaugural meeting were, besides governmental actors, the Roma, German and Croatian representatives of local organizations, as well as scientific, artistic and legal aid organizations. Similarly, there is a thematic working group responsible for Roma issues, with the involvement of the non-governmental organizations concerned.

II. MEASURES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS, RELATED TO SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Information is given below, in Chapter II of the Country Report, about the priority issues, the measures and guidelines made for the execution of the recommendations to date, as well as the current situation of the nationalities living in Hungary with regard to each subject.

Involvement of nationalities in developing the governmental policy

(1) The *strategic partnership agreement* signed in 2011 by the Minister of Public Administration and Justice and the Chairmen of the 13 national self-governments is a qualitative step forward in the cooperation between the Government and the nationalities named in the law. According to the agreement, the 13 nationalities of Hungary take part in the preparation of any new laws related to nationality issues. On the basis of the agreement concluded on 30 May 2011, the parties cooperate in the preparation, modification and revision of laws which are related to them in their capacity as a nationality. These subjects are the cardinal acts which guarantee the enforcement of the fundamental rights of nationalities, the laws related to the fundamental rights of nationalities, as well as the laws related to the enforcement of nationality educational, cultural, and language rights and state support for these tasks – which is within the responsibility of another ministry. According to the agreement, the strategic partners can be involved in the preparation of laws at any time, and they can recourse to the Ministry in case they consider the preparation of a draft legislation in the subject necessary. The agreement also allows personal consultations, which can be initiated by any of the parties.

A *Framework Agreement* was signed by the National Roma Self-Government (abbreviated as: NRSRG) and the Government of Hungary similarly in May 2011, specifying numerical goals and a time schedule for all special fields where the Hungarian State makes commitments for the sake of the inclusion of the Roma. The Framework Agreement places particular emphasis on job creation and on cooperation in the field of education. In order to promote the efficient inclusion of the Roma population, Government Decision 1136/2011 (of 02.05.) prescribed the elaboration of a detailed action plan, which was adopted by Government Decision 1338/2011 (of 14.10.). The Government and NRSRG developed the *co-decision system* primarily in the fields of development programmes, scholarship programmes, investment and employment aids aimed at the enhancement of employment, the improvement of the quality of education and the improvement of living conditions. The Agreement allows NRSRG as a Roma interest advocacy body to ensure that a substantial number of disadvantaged Roma and non-Roma children, youngsters and adults living in deep poverty take part in these programmes, and that these activities effectively contribute to their advancement and inclusion.

However, the nationality policy responsibilities undertaken by the Government shall not extend beyond the ideas admitted by the nationalities about themselves and about the shaping of their own futures; the nationality communities are also responsible for shaping their own future visions. The everyday activities of the nationality communities and the individuals belonging to them are inevitable for implementing the nationality policy. The measures in favour of nationality communities must not overlook the need to activate the target group. The assimilation of nationality people can be decelerated only in cooperation. The right of consultation, right of agreement and right of co-decision are exercised in the framework of the nationality self-government system, at local, regional and national level.

(2) The Minister of Human Capacities regularly meets with and consults the representatives of nationalities via the chairmen of the national minority self-governments. In the international context, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is also regularly involved in nationality affairs through diplomatic relations with the mother countries and regular (ministerial level) consultations. The tasks of the Hungarian co-chairman and secretary of minority joint committees are executed by the State Secretariat for National Policy of KIM which - in this capacity - indirectly monitors nationality affairs in Hungary, similar to the Nationality Policy Research Institute. The State Secretariat for Religious, Nationality and Civil Social Relations of EMMI organizes meetings with the representatives of self-governments several times a year; and the Nationality Department is in daily contact with the national self-government leaders of the nationalities.

(3) As regards the background institutions of EMMI, the National Institute for Culture (NIC) participates - in the frames of its state responsibilities related to the treatment of the culture of nationalities - in the development of community education of the nationalities, contributes to designing the concepts and execution of international, national and regional events. To promote professional coordination, it runs a Nationality Cultural Experts' Council and a Roma Experts' Council. The Councils and the Institute organized workshop discussions on nationality cultural topics, photography competitions, travelling exhibitions and gala programmes, and issued photo albums in the reporting period.

Legislation applicable to nationalities

(1) The legal environment regulating nationality rights has been developed, its fine-tuning is on-going. The cardinal act on the rights of nationalities, deriving from the Fundamental Law, has summarized and extended the spectrum of the rights of nationalities. The nationality-related provisions were also incorporated in the professional legal regulations during the elaboration of other laws and regulations. Nonetheless, primarily the legal regulations which specify the basic systems of nationality existence – that is: public education, tertiary education, operation of public collections and cultural institutions, and the operation of the public media – need continuous maintenance. The rights of nationalities are also enforced in elaborating the implementing regulations of cardinal and technical acts.

(2) The ***Fundamental Law*** adopted in 2011 mentions nationalities both in the preamble and in the detailed provisions, thereby specifying the framework of the rights of nationalities. The references in the Fundamental Law determine the status of the nationalities living in Hungary, strengthen their loyalty to Hungary and emphasize their equality of rights. The languages and culture of the nationalities of Hungary are defended by the Fundamental Law, and the active participation of the State in treating the nationalities' languages (NATIONAL AVOWAL) is also prescribed. According to Section (2) in Article XV, Hungary shall ensure fundamental rights to every person without any discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, gender, disability, language, religion, political or other views, national or social origin, financial, birth or other circumstances whatsoever. Article XXIX of the Fundamental Law prescribes that the nationalities living in Hungary are state-forming factors; and every Hungarian citizen belonging to a nationality has the right to freely declare and preserve their identity.

It ensures the rights to using the native language, the individual and community names in their own language, to the treatment of culture and native language education for nationalities living in the territory of Hungary. The nationalities living in Hungary can establish local and national-

level self-governments. The detailed provisions regarding the rights of nationalities of Hungary, as well as the rules on the election of their local and national self-governments are specified in a cardinal act. The Nationality Act enters into force gradually – the conceptually new rules will be effective at the time of announcing the next general elections (in 2014). On the basis of the referenced provisions, the National Assembly adopted four cardinal acts for settling the nationality rights, regulating them exclusively and basically in one case and the other cases, respectively:

- Act CLXXIX of 2011 on the Rights of Nationalities
- Act CCIII of 2011 on the Election of Members of Parliament (Electoral Act)
- Act XXXVI of 2013 on Electoral Procedure (Electoral Procedure Act)
- Act XXXVI of 2012 on the National Assembly (National Assembly Act)

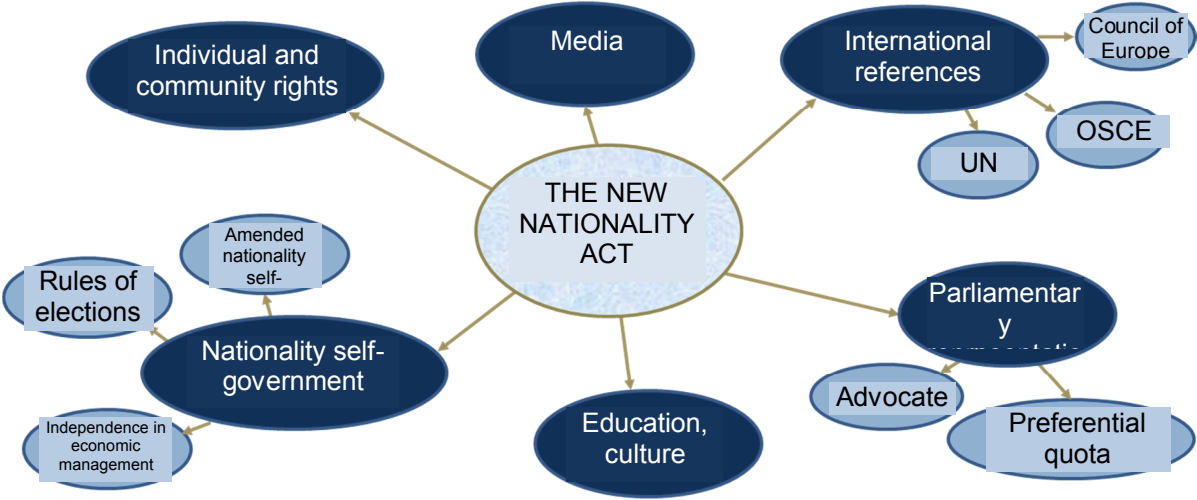
(3) Act LXXVII of 1993 on the Rights of National and Ethnic Minorities adopted by the Hungarian National Assembly on 7 July 1993 determined, based on the constitutional principle that the national and ethnic minorities of Hungary are state-forming factors, the individual and community rights of the national and ethnic minorities of Hungary, including the tools for enforcing the above and the institutional bases thereof. The objective of this regulation and the subsequent amendments was that the rights and obligations of minorities shall apply to the individuals and communities belonging to the minorities. This priority objective was (beside all its indisputable positive results) degraded on the four-yearly minority self-government elections from time to time; as, according to indications by nationality communities and the conclusions by the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Rights of National and Ethnic Minorities (the legal predecessor of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights), some local minority self-governments which were not "confirmed" by their actual community presence in these settlements as reflected in the census data were formed from time to time, starting from 1994. The comprehensive reform of the rules of minority self-government elections in 2005 did not bring the desired effects. The experience from the two minority self-government elections since its entry into force indicated that a completely new election system should be developed.

Act CLXXIX of 2011 on the Rights of Nationalities was adopted by the National Assembly on its session of 19 December 2011, following versatile and extensive consultations. As of 01 January 2012 the Nationality Act – in line with the Fundamental Law – introduces the single notion of nationality instead of the notion of national and ethnical minority used since 1993. The regulation clearly shows that there is no content modification, simply a single notion is introduced with a different approach. The provisions of the Nationality Act also cover the fundamental, individual and community rights of the nationalities; as well as the fields of education, culture, media, and the operation and system of the nationality self-governments. Besides references to the Fundamental Law, the international documents underlying the nationality policy of Hungary also show up in the preamble of the new Act; the Act refers to the documents of the UNO, OSCE and the Council of Europe related to nationalities' rights, as the principles which form the nationality policy of Hungary.

The Nationality Act extends the scope of entities which belong to a nationality, it determines not only the notion of nationality community but also the notion of a person belonging to a nationality. According to the Nationality Act, nationalities are all ethnic groups that have been resident in Hungary for at least a century, are in numerical minority in the population of the country, are differentiated from the other parts of the population based on their own language, culture and traditions, and testify a sense of belonging together for the sake of preserving the above and for the sake of expressing and protecting the interests of their historically developed communities. The Nationality Act defines not only the nationality community, but – filling a

gap – also a person who belongs to a nationality: those who are resident in Hungary and consider themselves to belong to a nationality. The regulation clearly provides that the rights and obligations of nationalities shall be applicable to a person and community belonging to a nationality if they declare their identity in a way as specified by the law or an implementing regulation: "The declaration of belonging to a nationality is the exclusive and inalienable right of all individuals. Nobody shall be obliged to declare their belonging to a nationality; however, the law or implementing regulations can provide that the exercise of some nationality rights is subject to the declaration by the individual."

Act CLXXIX of 2011 on the Rights of Nationalities was created following versatile and extensive consultations



In order to eliminate previous abuses, nationality aids have been dependent on census results since 2014.

Source: Ministry of Human Capacities

The nationality self-government is the primary but not exclusive depository of nationality cultural autonomy. The new act regulates in special detail the election, organization, operation and supervision of nationality self-governments. That is definitely due to the fact that the problems which prevented or hindered the operation of nationality representation arose in these fields in the previous period. During the consultations with nationalities, specific expectations were expressed to have these provisions specified as accurate and detailed as possible. The objective of the substantive legal regulation of the election of nationality self-government representatives is that a nationality self-government may be established in settlements and at the regional level only if there is a community background confirmed by actual census data; but at the same time, the national representation of the given nationality shall be ensured also in case the nationality does not establish a self-government on another level. A novelty of the regulation is that it enables the settlements where at least half of the voters are registered on the national electoral roll and/or half of the members of the elected body are elected as nationality candidates to operate as transformed nationality self-governments – uniting the responsibilities and competences of the settlement and local nationality self-government.

According to Section 10 (9) of the Nationality Act, the board of representatives of the local government shall establish a commission dealing with nationality affairs or charge one of the commissions with those affairs, upon the initiative of the board of representatives of the settlement-level nationality self-government. The designated member from the board of representatives of the settlement-based nationality self-government may participate in the commission dealing with nationality affairs and have a say on the agenda items.

A separate chapter covers the legal status, roles and responsibilities of the national-level self-governments of nationalities and the tasks of the office of the national self-government – including among others: national minority self-governments may establish and operate a legal aid service for their communities, and may operate an information service for their local and regional nationality self-governments. No legal regulations related to the preservation and treatment of settlements and architectural monuments having historical nationality traditions will be adopted without seeking the opinion of the national minority self-governments; similar to the way their opinion was to be sought when the government decrees on the implementation of Act CXC of 2011 on National Public Education (hereinafter: National Public Education Act) were adopted. An important new element therein is that the nationality self-government can request the urgent judicial review of the laws adopted in the fields listed, with reference to the detriment of nationality rights. Taking into account the census data, the rights of nationalities to use their language are extended in the settlements where their percentage ratio in the population reaches ten or twenty percent: the decrees of the settlement-level local government will be mandatorily issued in the language of the nationality; various forms, the notices of public service institutions and bodies, place and street names will be issued in the language of the nationality; and if the local government provides media services, it is obliged to include programmes, articles in the language of the nationality. In addition to the above, independent from their local ratio, nationalities have the right to obtain and supply information and access media products in their own native language.

By the two acts on the rights of nationalities of 1993 and 2011, Hungary settled the public legal status of minorities living in its territory, even previously recognized in part as a national community and partially recognized as indigenous minorities for more than 20 years, exemplary for many countries of the region. Since then, a number of countries have established the system of nationwide representation and the possibility of cultural autonomy of nationalities on the basis of the Hungarian model.

(4) According to Act CCIII of 2011 on the Election of Members of Parliament (hereinafter: Electoral Act), the election of MP's is carried out in one round in 2014 for the first time, where voters resident in Hungary can vote for individual constituency candidates and for party lists. Voters resident in Hungary and registered as a nationality voter can vote – at their own choice – for the list of their nationality or for a party list, besides the individual constituency candidates. In terms of nationality rights, the elections are of "pioneering" significance, making up for an omission of more than two decades: as from 2014, all Hungarian nationalities can be involved in the work of the National Assembly. The Electoral Act introduces two new concepts having utmost significance in terms of nationality rights. One novelty is the preferential quota, that is the number of votes necessary to obtain a nationality mandate, which the legislator has established as a quarter of the party list votes. The other important concept is the nationality advocate: a nationality which establishes nationality list but obtains no mandates will be represented in the National Assembly by a nationality advocate. The nationality advocate will be the candidate who is first on the nationality list.

(5) Act XXXVI of 2013 on Electoral Procedure (hereinafter: Electoral Procedure Act) details the procedural rules of elections, specifies - among others - the notion of the nationality nominating organization: (as for the election of nationality self-government representatives) a nationality organization legally listed in the judicial registry of non-governmental organizations at the time of the announcement of elections, in case it has been included in the register of nominating organizations by the election commission. An organization which intends to have a candidate or a list shall be reported to the National Election Committee as a nominating organization after the announcement of elections. According to its basic rule, a nationality nominating organization shall protect and represent the interests of the nationality, or perform activities directly related to the nationality cultural autonomy. One nationality organization can represent one nationality only. Additionally, the Electoral Procedure Act introduces the legal institution of central register, which – upon request – includes data about belonging to a nationality.

The act summarizes the election procedure in detail: According to the Electoral Act, 199 MP's can be elected in 2014, including 106 in individual constituencies and 93 on the national list. A national list can be put up as a party list or as a nationality list. A nationality list can be established by national minority self-governments; the support of at least one percent of voters registered as nationality voters but maximum 1500 supporters are necessary to put up a list. Only voters registered as nationality voters can be candidates, and at least 3 candidates must be on the list. Procedure of obtaining mandates on the national lists: the valid votes which can be taken into account according to the legal provisions are counted; the votes and fractional votes of the parties that reached the threshold specified by law are cumulated, and the votes for nationality lists are added. The sum so obtained shall be divided first by the number of the mandates obtainable on the national list, that is by 93; and then by 4; and the integer part of this result will be the preferential quote. For a nationality list to obtain a mandate, the votes for that list should reach the amount of the preferential quote. The law provides the possibility to obtain one preferential mandate per nationality.

(6) According to Act XXXVI of 2012 on the National Assembly (hereinafter: National Assembly Act), the representatives acquiring mandates on a nationality electoral list and the nationality advocates are members of the Standing Parliamentary Committee for the Representation of Nationalities. The Committee is an organization of the National Assembly acting as initiator, proposer, reviewer, as well as a controller of governmental work regarding nationalities.

(7) Act CLXXXIX of 2011 on the Local Governments of Hungary (hereinafter: Local Government Act) *expressis verbis* deals with local nationality self-governments in a few points only; nevertheless, it can be considered one of the most important legal regulations as regards nationality rights. That is on the one hand because it includes the background regulation of the Nationality Act, and on the other hand because the people of nationalities are a part of the population of the settlements, and the population of settlements as a whole are participants of community existence and are beneficiaries of local public services; and those belonging to a nationality live their lives as nationalities in parallel with and not contrary to the above, which is supported by the whole population of settlements and the local governments. In carrying out its tasks, the local government supports the self-organized communities of the population and cooperates with these communities, ensures broad citizen participation in local public affairs; and strengthens the settlement's self-sustaining capability, explores its possibilities and utilizes its resources. The management of nationality affairs is one of the local public affairs and one of the local government duties that are to be carried out locally within the frames of public duties. According to Section 85 (10) of the Act, the minister responsible for local governments may,

upon founding a joint office, give favours to the relevant settlements in order to deviate from the general legal requirements for the sake of emphasizing nationality aspects, thereby ensuring the enforcement of the rights of minorities.

(8) As regards Act CXCV of 2011 on Public Finances (hereinafter: Public Finances Act), the rules of economic management of nationality self-governments have been changed several times since their foundation, and the regulation used to be inconsistent in many respects and differed at the various levels of nationality self-governments. The Nationality Act provides that all three levels of nationality self-governments (settlement, county, national levels) have independent economic management – in line with the notion of independent legal entity and self-governance – and uniformly all three levels perform budgetary organization-type economic management and are so connected to the system of the state budget. Analogous to the provisions of the Nationality Act, according to the Public Finances Act, the state budget comprises of central and local government sub-systems. All three levels of the nationality self-government system are parts of the local government sub-system. The incorporated associations of nationality self-governments, as well as the budgetary organizations founded and managed by nationality self-governments also belong to the local government sub-system. The local government and the relevant local nationality self-governments specify the rules on the execution of tasks in agreements as per the Nationality Act.

(9) Act L of 2010 on the Election of Local Government Representatives and Mayors ensures that nationalities may obtain preferential mandates in the local government representative bodies as from 2014. The nationality candidate can obtain a preferential mandate on the individual list at general local government election and interim elections set for electing a whole representative body, provided at least fifty percent of the registered voters are also on the nationality voters' register of that nationality at the time of announcement of the elections. If no candidates of that nationality obtain a mandate either on the mayor election or on the individual list, two thirds of valid votes for the candidate obtaining a mandate with the least votes on the individual list shall be taken as a basis. The candidate of a nationality will receive a preferential mandate if he/she has more than that basic number of votes. If there are more than one such candidates of one nationality, the one having the most votes will obtain the preferential mandate, and in case of equal number of votes, the preferential mandate will be granted by lot. The nationality candidate can obtain a preferential mandate on the compensation list in general local government elections and in interim elections set for electing a whole representative body, provided at least twenty-five percent of the registered voters are also on the nationality voters' register for that nationality at the time of announcement of the elections. If no candidates of a nationality obtain a mandate either on the mayor election, in the individual constituency, or on the compensation list (including the nationality compensation list), two thirds of the average of the valid votes for the representatives obtaining a mandate in the individual constituencies shall be taken as a basis; and the national compensation list will receive one preferential mandate if it has more fractional votes than that basic number.

(10) Act LXXXVII of 2013 on the Transparency of Campaign Costs Related to the Election of the Members of the Parliament specifies the procedure for allocating the financial support to national minority self-governments that put up a nationality list on the general elections of MP's.

(11) The objective of Act CXC of 2011 on National Public Education (hereinafter: National Public Education Act) is, while alloying the noble traditions of Hungarian education with the

expectations of the present and the possibilities of the future, as the pledge of the rising of the nation, for the purposes of the patriotic instruction and high quality education of the future generations, to enforce the right to education as laid down in the Fundamental Law, to realise the right of the nationalities for education in their native language, to determine the rights and obligations of those participating in public education and to manage and operate a public education system which provides contemporary knowledge. Public educational institutions may be established and operated by the State and - within the framework of the National Public Education Act - by nationality self-governments, ecclesiastic legal persons, as well as organizations performing religious activities, or other persons or organizations, on condition that they have obtained the right to conduct such an activity, as laid down by statutory provisions. (Kindergartens may also be established and operated by settlement-level local governments.) The nationality self-government may take over the right to operate institutions established to provide pre-school and school education for children belonging to a nationality in the settlement inhabited by the nationality from the settlement-level local government or from the state, by concluding a public education agreement.

Public education shall promote educational interests corresponding to the cultural autonomy of nationalities. The language of education is the Hungarian language; in nationality kindergartens and schools it is partially or wholly the language of the nationality, in bilingual schools it is partially the language of the nationality – according to specific other legislation. If pre-school and school education is carried out exclusively in the language of the nationality in an educational institution or if more than half of the students study in two languages – in the nationality's language and in Hungarian –, only such a person can be appointed for the head of the institution who may, as per the National Public Education Act, fill teaching positions in nationality pre-school or school education. In case of identical conditions, preference shall be given to the person who belongs to the nationality.

The pre-school and school education of nationalities, school education in bilingual schools, the pre-school and school education of children with special educational needs, education in student hostels and primary art education are based on special provisions laid down in the decrees issued by the minister for education. The consent of the national minority self-government shall be obtained in regards to matters concerning nationality education based on the framework curricula and the national master programme of education in student hostels, as well as for publishing the guideline for the pre-school and school education of nationalities. The institution designated by the minister for education shall organise the pedagogical professional services assisting nationality pre-school, school and student hostel education, as well as the services which cannot be efficiently organised at the local level or which support the functions of sectorial control. In educational institutions maintained by the state, the local government or the nationality self-government, religious education (not being part of compulsory school lessons and organized upon request by parents or students) (hereinafter: facultative religious education), and religious and ethics education optionally chosen instead of ethics lessons may only be organized by an ecclesiastic legal person, within the frameworks of this Act.

(12) According to Act CCIV of 2011 on National Tertiary Education, students belonging to a nationality may, in accordance with the rules set forth in this Act, take programmes either in their native language or Hungarian, or in their native language and Hungarian. The Government ensures equality of rights for nationality applicants in their admission procedure to tertiary education and during their tertiary educational studies, as well as in specifying the number of students supported by Hungarian (partial) state scholarships. National minority self-

governments are entitled to found tertiary educational institutions independently or together with other eligible entities. The minister for education shall obtain the opinion of the National Council of Nationalities for its decisions adopted on nationality education. If a national minority self-government initiates the fulfilment of conditions for tertiary education in the native language or native language studies in tertiary education, pursuant to the Nationality Act, the minister shall consider all demands and meet such conditions by initiating the conclusion of an international agreement, executing a work plan or inviting applications for tertiary education programmes in the home country or proposals for meeting the necessary conditions in Hungarian tertiary educational institutions. If a tertiary educational institution may provide nationality teacher training as stated in its founding charter, such training shall be organised for applicants who meet the entry requirements.

(13) According to Act LXVI of 1995 on Public Records, Public Archives and the Protection of Private Archives, a national minority self-government as a body performing other public services is authorized to establish public archives for preserving the public documents made by them more than 15 years ago. The amount of documents made by national minority self-governments, older than 15 years and having a lasting value does not justify the foundation of a national minority archive.

(14) Act CXL of 1997 on Museum Institutions, Public Library Services and Community Culture provides that the preservation and worthy continuation of nationality cultural traditions; the enhancement of personal, intellectual and economic conditions for community and personal culture and education; activities improving the citizens' quality of life and carrying values; and the facilitation of the operation of institutions and organizations serving the implementation thereof are in the common interest of the society. Everyone has the right to find out about cultural property and its importance in historical developments and in the formation of national and nationality self awareness, and about the protection of this property, through the activity of museum-type institutions, library services, education, community culture, awareness raising, the press and mass communication. According to the regulation, the settlement-based local government is obliged to support local public cultural activities, and in that framework, to disseminate knowledge about the values of nationality culture, to facilitate understanding and inclusion, and to treat the culture of ceremonies. The operation of professional service organizations specialized in community culture and participating in the coordination of public cultural aids is facilitated by the minister for culture and the City Council of Budapest in the counties and the capital, respectively, in order to support settlement-based local governments, district governments in the capital, nationality self-governments, cultural institutions, organizations and communities, in the implementation of their cultural objectives and in the facilitation and development of their cultural activities.

A museum institution can be founded by any legal or natural person, and it can be classified as a nationality base institution by the minister for culture, upon relevant specific request, if the fundamental responsibilities of the institution include the execution of nationality tasks, or if at least 25 percent of its stock includes cultural values in the nationality's language or values having reference to the nationality. According to the current legislation, a public collection (library, archives, museum institution, image- or sound archives) can be founded - besides other organizations - by national minority self-governments; however, an amendment which would extend the right of foundation to all three levels of nationality self-governments is pending.

(15) The objective of Act CXII of 2011 on Informational Self-Determination and Freedom of Information is to specify the basic rules of data handling, in order to ensure that data handlers

respect the privacy of natural persons, and to ensure the transparency of public affairs through the enforcement of the right to know and disseminate data of public interest and data that are public for public interests. In the implementation of this Act, personal data are especially the name of the concerned person and – among others – any information characterizing one or more physical, physiological, cultural or social identity, as well as any deductions that may be drawn from the data regarding the concerned person. Special data are, among others, the personal data regarding affiliation to a nationality. Personal data may be handled if the concerned person agrees to that; or if the law or – based on statutory authorization, in the scope specified by law – a decree of a local government so orders for public purpose. Any special data may be handled if the concerned person agrees to that in writing; and also if the concerned person's consent cannot be obtained or would entail disproportionate cost, and the handling of personal data is necessary for the fulfilment of the legal obligations of the data handler, or it is justified for the enforcement of the legitimate interest of the data handler or a third party, and the enforcement of this interest is proportionate to the limitation of the right to the protection of personal data.

(16) Act CXI of 2011 on the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights provides that the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights – especially through proceedings initiated ex officio – pays particular attention to, among others, the protection of the rights of the nationalities of Hungary and the most vulnerable groups of the society. The Deputy of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights responsible for the protection of the rights of the nationalities of Hungary monitors the enforcement of the rights of the nationalities of Hungary and regularly informs the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights on the findings regarding the enforcement of the rights of the nationalities of Hungary, and draws the attention of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights to threats of infringement of rights affecting any large groups of natural persons. The Deputy can propose the initiation of ex officio proceedings to the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights, participates in the investigations of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights, and may propose that the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights go to the Constitutional Court.

(17) According to Act CXXX of 2010 on Legislation, the representative body of the nationality self-government can regulate in a legislative decision the organization, operation, activities and action plans of its own and of the bodies controlled by it.

(18) According to the provisions of Act CXXXIX of 2009 on the Census of 2011, the data collected regarding natural persons in the previous census included, among others, citizenship, religion, nationality and mother tongue; and the provision of the above data was voluntary except for citizenship.

(19) The State maintains performing arts organizations from the central budget, and – in accordance with the conditions set out in Act XCIX of 2008 on the Support and Special Employment Rules of Performing Arts Organisations – contributes to meeting the conditions for performing arts activities by local, settlement and regional nationality self-governments, in the frames of the local public service tasks voluntarily undertaken by them and their nationality public service tasks. In addition, it supports through tenders, and facilitates as per public service agreements the efforts of other performing arts organizations aimed at the renewal and diversity of performing arts. In the application of the law, a nationality theatre is a theatre recognized by a declaration of the national minority self-government, performing in the language of the nationality; or a theatre performing in the Hungarian language whose performances created by creative communities associated with the specific nationality serve

primarily the native-language cultural needs of that nationality community and are linked to the socio-cultural background and traditions of that nationality community. The National Interest Reconciliation Council for Performing Arts is the interest reconciliation forum for professional, professional policy and support issues related to the legal relationships regulated by this law. National minority self-governments delegate 1 member to the 24-member body. The minister for culture launches a tender – among others – for performing theatrical works and musical works in the languages of the nationalities living in Hungary, in the form of new performances.

(20) Government Decree 303/2007 on the Definition and Registration of the Official Geographic Names of Hungary (of 14.11.), based on the authorization provided by Act LXXVI of 1996 on Land Survey and Cartography Activities (the currently applicable law is Act XLVI of 2012 on Land Survey and Cartography Activities), regulates the issues related to the definition of, commenting on and registration of official geographic names.

(21) The Hungarian commitments related to the Charter for Languages ratified by Act XL of 1999 on the Promulgation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages established on 5 November 1992 in Strasbourg cover – in an itemised form – the Croatian, German, Romanian, Serbian, Slovak and Slovenian languages, and as from 28 July 2008 the Romani and Boyash languages. In this context, it shall be emphasized that the Nationality Act provides the same level of protection of rights to language usage for the 13 nationalities.

(22) Regarding Act XXXIV of 1999 on the Promulgation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities of the Council of Europe issued on 1 February 1995 in Strasbourg, it should be emphasized that as from 1993, most of the commitments under the Framework Convention have been ensured by the Hungarian legislation; while as from 2011, all of the commitments are covered by legislation. We should highlight that - while the Framework Convention provides with regard to education that "the exercise of this right shall not entail any financial obligation for the Parties" - Section 22 (2) of the Nationality Act provides that "The State recognizes the native languages of the nationalities of Hungary as cohesive factors for the communities. The State supports the use of the languages used by nationalities in nationality public education, regardless of the operators of the public educational institutions. The excessive costs of nationality public education shall be covered by the state in accordance with the relevant legislation."

Issues related to the participation rights of nationalities

(1) Significant progress has been made with respect to the parliamentary representation of nationalities in the reporting period. Even earlier, people belonging to nationalities regularly became MP's as members of parties, but they were primarily the representatives of their parties and not of their communities of origin. Another possibility which has been granted for a long time is that the national self-governments of nationalities have been able to participate - in consultative capacity - in the special committee for nationalities of the Parliament. The *Forum of National and Ethnic Minorities of Hungary* was established in 2009, providing broad consultation possibilities among the parliamentary parties, parliamentary committees and the national self-governments of the minorities. This body can make proposals and recommendations, issue opinions and declarations with regard to issues related to nationality identity, and its members may be invited to attend the meetings of the commissions of the Parliament.

(2) However, the real parliamentary participation of nationalities was established by Act CCIII of 2011 on the Election of Members of Parliament, which was adopted by the Hungarian National Assembly in parallel with the Act on the Rights of Nationalities. As the closing provisions of the Fundamental Law include (21): „The participation of the nationalities living in Hungary in the work of the National Assembly (...) shall be ensured for the first time in the work of the National Assembly formed after the first general election of Members of the National Assembly after the entry into force of the Fundamental Law.” Therefore, the participation of nationalities in the work of the National Assembly is ensured by the so-called **preferential quota** as from the next general elections in 2014 – that is: one representative of the nationality can obtain a mandate by a quarter of the votes which would be necessary to get in the National Assembly. There will certainly be more MP's directly elected in their capacity as members of a nationality in the Hungarian National Assembly elected in 2014 – in addition to those already present as members of parties.

The interests of the nationalities which will obtain no mandates will be represented by **nationality advocates**. National minority self-governments can put up a list including candidates who are in the register of the nationality. If no representative of a nationality gets in the National Assembly by the preferential quota, the law provides the possibility for the community to delegate a nationality advocate. The advocate may be the candidate who is first on the candidates' list of the national minority self-government. According to Act XXXVI of 2012 on the National Assembly, although the nationality advocate does not have the right to vote in the sessions of the National Assembly, he/she may address issues concerning the nationalities in the sessions of the National Assembly; can participate in the committee for the representation of nationalities with right to vote; has the right to consultation in standing committee sessions; and can put questions to the members of the Government in his/her area of competence.

Report and results of the Charter for Languages of the fifth period

(1) In 1992 Hungary was among the first countries to join the **European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages** of the Council of Europe (abbreviated as: Charter for Languages). Hungary first accepted commitments regarding six nationality (German, Slovak, Croatian, Romanian, Slovenian, and Serbian) languages, and in 2008 it extended them to the Roma (Romani and Boyash) languages. Hungary continuously fulfils the commitments accepted through joining the Charter for Languages, and reports on the fulfilment of the Hungarian commitments regarding the Convention of 1999 every three years. The fifth report on the implementation of the Charter for Languages was made in 2011-2012: the last interim report on the fulfilment of the commitments related to the Charter for Languages – which the Government adopted in its Decision 1045/2012 (of 29.02.) – was submitted to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe. The practical realization of the rights of nationalities to use their native language was assessed during on-site consultations in Hungary on 12 September 2012 by the Expert Committee of the Charter for Languages. They consulted the national self-governments of nationalities and the representatives of official organizations; and asked further questions later answered by the Hungarian party. On the basis of that, the Expert Committee prepared a report for the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, which then discussed the documents and adopted recommendations for Hungary (recommendation no. CM/RecChL(2013)5), setting out the expectations for the enhancement of Hungary's commitments related to the Charter for Languages.

The report describes the most important facts, data, events deriving from our commitments related to regional or minority languages for the period January 2009 - December 2011. It discusses in detail the enforcement of language-related nationality rights, primarily in the areas of administration, justice, education, culture, means of information, economic and social life, as well as cross-border relations; and answers the questions posed to the Government of Hungary by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. The Charter protects the nationality languages used as living languages, proportionally to the actual usage thereof, and – in justified cases – the protection applies to specific geographical areas. The regulation specifies the areas of language usage, such as: education, justice, public administration, public services, mass media, cultural activities, economic and social life, cross-border relations.

When joining the Charter, Hungary committed itself to provide the education of the native languages of nationalities at all levels of education, at the places where sufficient number of parents request that and in settlements where the people of a nationality live, and to make the education of the nationality language available also to those who do not belong to the nationality. In the field of justice and criminal issues, Hungary committed itself to provide the possibility of using the nationality languages during proceedings; as well as in public administration, both orally and in writing. Regarding economic life, we committed ourselves to provide the possibility to use nationality languages among economic actors, and not hinder that by any laws. In the area of cross-border relations, the State would not hinder keeping contact among those speaking the same language. The language-related rights included in the Charter for Languages shall be granted automatically, without any specific initiatives, to the "historical" settlements of nationalities and to the seat towns of transformed nationality self-governments.

Regulations on equal treatment and the promotion of equal opportunities

(1) Act CXXV of 2003 on Equal Treatment and the Promotion of Equal Opportunities is a general anti-discrimination regulation which has made the rules already existing in the Hungarian law coherent, and adjusted to the relevant EU guidelines by a number of new elements. The Act on Equal Treatment includes the legal institution of the local equal opportunity programme (conf. network of local rapporteurs described in Chapter I). The local government of the settlement adopts this programme, assesses the situation of the local disadvantaged groups, specifies the objectives promoting the equal opportunity of these groups, with special attention to housing, education, health care, employment and social conditions. The local equal opportunity programme includes the required financial resources for the implementation of the objectives and their schedule.

The summary by the Equal Treatment Authority (abbreviated as: ETA) about the reporting period has been detailed in Chapter I and is presented in Chapter III.

(2) According to the Ministry of Public Administration and Justice, Act CXL of 2004 on the General Rules of Administrative Proceedings and Services, and other related acts, as well as Act CLXXIV of 2011 on the Amendment of Specific Acts Related to the Review of Ministerial Powers have implemented changes related to the rights of nationalities as of 1 February 2012. This act included – among others – the comprehensive amendment of Act CXL of 2004 on the General Rules of Administrative Proceedings and Services (hereinafter: Administrative Proceedings Act), Act CXXV of 2003 on Equal Treatment and the Promotion of Equal Opportunities (hereinafter: Equal Treatment Act), in connection with administrative procedures for the enforcement of the requirement of equal treatment. The amendment and restructuring of

the above-mentioned acts significantly contributed to more prominently reflecting the requirement of equal treatment in the procedures of the authorities.

Act LXXXIV of 2013 on Amending Individual Acts Pertaining to Public Administration Procedures and Certain Authentic Official Records, as well as on the Amendment of Other Acts has brought further important progress regarding the regulation of administrative procedures for the enforcement of the equal treatment requirement. The reason for the amendment of the law was that the ETA has become an autonomous state administrative body as from 1 January 2012 according to the Equal Treatment Act.; thus, the regulation concerning the organization, operation and proceedings of the ETA can only be laid down in an act. As some of the procedural rules were set out in Government Decree 362/2004 (of 26.12.) on the Equal Treatment Authority and the Detailed Rules of its Procedures (XII. 26.) (hereinafter: Equal Treatment Government Decree), the requirement for the above-mentioned level of legal source was not fulfilled, and some provisions of the Equal Treatment Government Decree were parallel with or contrary to the relevant provisions of the Administrative Proceedings Act and the Equal Treatment Act. All this necessitated the raising of the provisions of the Equal Treatment Government Decree to the level of law and the repeal of the Equal Treatment Government Decree. To ensure the consistency of the legal system and the transparency of legal regulation, all rules related to the requirement of equal treatment – also the substantive and procedural legal regulation related to the enforcement of the requirement of equal treatment – were included in the Equal Treatment Act, and at the same time the relevant provisions of the Administrative Proceedings Act were repealed. All this also expresses that the enforcement of the requirement of equal treatment is prominently reflected in the administrative procedures.

Combating discrimination and hate speech (and the punishability thereof)

(1) Anti-discrimination measures promote the creation of opportunities and social cohesion. In the recent years the Government has paid special attention to taking actions against racism and discrimination. That is confirmed by a number of recent legislative changes. The currently effective anti-discrimination law is harmonised with European community law, containing uniform, comprehensive and detailed anti-discrimination provisions. Besides the general provisions, the law handles the detailed rules regarding the enforcement of the requirement of equal treatment in different areas (employment, social security and health care, housing, education and training, distribution of goods and usage of services). The law prohibits both direct and indirect discrimination.

(2) With regard to criminal legislation and sanctions, the Ministry of Interior provided the following information. The Council of Europe defines crimes named „*hate crimes*”; of the crimes included in Act C of 2012 on the Criminal Code (Criminal Code), this term covers primarily the following crimes: violence against members of communities (Sections 216 (1)-(2) of the Criminal Code), and instigation against a community (Section 332 of the Criminal Code). The range of acts of hatred include: murder for malicious reasons or aims (Section 160 (1) c) of the Criminal Code), voluntary manslaughter (Section 161 of the Criminal Code), assistance in suicide (Section 162 (1) of the Criminal Code), provided their grounds were racism or racial prejudice³. The definition of violence against members of communities was

³ According to Act IV of 1978 on the Criminal Code (former Criminal Code), Article 174/B violence against members of communities and Article 269 provocation against a community may be included in the range of

changed as of 1 February 2009. This modification permits the punishability of the preparation of the crime, and extended (versus the previous regulation) the scope of passive subjects (members of national, ethnic, racial- or religious groups) by some groups of the population; thus, the legislator significantly broadened the applicability of the crime.

As from 7 May 2011, criminal defence in the case of violence against members of communities has been significantly broadened; starting from this date imprisonment up to three years due to felony will be the punishment also in case someone demonstrates provocative antisocial behaviour capable of causing fear against people due to their belonging to or presumably belonging to a nationality, ethnic, racial or religious group or to certain groups of the population. The entry into force of the Criminal Code has not brought substantial changes to the above-mentioned definitions of facts; nonetheless, the list of the scope of passive subjects was augmented by some groups of the population; or better said, the law emphasizes gender identity and sexual orientation. These sensitive people have so far been protected by criminal law also due to their belonging to specific groups of the population; and the legislator wished to draw the attention of law enforcement to these people by naming these specific properties.

The Ministry of Interior pays special attention to the prevention of emergence of racism, to the efficiency of law enforcement bodies' and civilian intelligence services' actions against extremism, and – if the risk of proliferation of these crimes is observed – to taking quick and effective actions. The Government is obliged to do so by several international conventions, especially the Paris Convention adopted in 1947 and the European Convention on Human Rights signed in Rome in 1950. The court dismissed an extremist civilian organization in its final sentence in 2009. That was when the Government realized that the infringement and criminal law does not provide the possibility to enforce the execution of such a sentence sufficiently, or to the extent desired by the society. This shall not be considered a deficiency of legislation, as there has been no precedent of an extremist organization abusing the right of association by founding an association and having it registered in Hungary since the entry into force of the democratic constitution in 1989. In the sentence on this organization, the court concluded that their programme's "core was to focus on the category of 'Gypsy criminality'. The application of this generalized category, clearly based on racial, ethnic grounds, violates the fundamental idea of equal human dignity (...)". According to the court, thereby they virtually "formed the discrimination of people into a programme, and expressed that several times also in the form of marches qualifying as demonstration of power whose appearance was intimidating to other people."

Due to the above, a legislative framework for effective actions against such organizations had to be created, that is why the Government established the legal regulations necessary for effective actions against dismissed social organizations and for the execution of the final court judgments declaring their dismissal. On 22 February 2010 the National Assembly amended the definition of 'crime of abuse of the right of association' stipulated in Article 212/A of the former Criminal Code; therefore, since its entry into force, the criminal offense may be constituted not only by participating in the leadership of a dismissed social organization but also by participating in the operation of a social organization dismissed by the court in a way that may disturb public peace, or by providing the conditions necessary for or facilitating the leadership or operation of such organizations or providing material instruments for that.

crimes. The range of acts of hatred may also include murder (Section 166 of the Criminal Code), voluntary manslaughter (Section 167 of the Criminal Code), assistance in suicide (Section 168 of the Criminal Code) and assault (Section 170 of the Criminal Code), provided their grounds were racism or racial prejudice.

(3) Section 2:54 (5) of Act V of 2013 on the Civil Code introduces **special rules for the enforcement of personality rights related to belonging to a community** as from 15 March 2014. According to this paragraph, any member of a community shall be entitled to enforce his personality rights in the event of any severely offensive infringement of law or unduly malicious statement made in public at large for being part of the Hungarian nation or of a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, which is recognized as an essential part of his personality trait, manifested in a conduct constituting a serious violation in an attempt to damage that community's reputation, by bringing action within a thirty-day preclusive period. Any member of the community can enforce all sanctions for the violation of personality rights, except for the assignment of material benefit obtained through the violation of rights.

According to the **grounds** of the Section, the collective protection of personality rights is justified only in cases of certain basic rights; otherwise, the freedom of expression would be compromised. **The collective protection of personality rights shall be limited**, in order to ensure that **only reasonable and extreme violations are sanctioned**.

The means for that are as follows:

- a) The text 'violation of rights related to an "essential part of his personality trait"' shall be inserted so that protection of rights shall be provided only in serious cases and only to those who actually belong to the community.
- b) The objective of the application of the expression "in public at large" is that personal relations and private conversations shall not reach the court on this basis.
- c) The text "severely offensive" "or unduly malicious statement" is necessary because even a community must tolerate a certain level of criticism.
- d) The enforcement of claim must be limited to a thirty-day preclusive period due to the risk of endless litigation, as all members of the community might initiate numerous lawsuits on the same grounds within the limitation period. By introducing this deadline, the number of lawsuits can be reasonably limited and can be merged; considering that the right to be enforced is the same.

The assignment to the member of the community instituting the action of material benefit obtained through the violation of rights shall be excluded because it would be unfair if only the members who initiate a lawsuit at court in time due to the violation of their rights benefited from this advantage.

The **procedural bases** for that rule are provided by Act CCLII of 2013 on the Amendment of Certain Acts Relating to the Entry into Force of the New Civil Code (hereinafter: Civil Code Amendment), in its point 85 on the Amendment of Act III of 1952 on the Code of Civil Procedure (hereinafter: Civil Procedure Code) of Chapter VIII on the Amendment of Certain Acts Relating to Public Administration and Justice. The Civil Code Amendment establishes the special rules regarding lawsuits filed for the enforcement of personality rights related to belonging to a community in Chapter XXII of the Civil Procedure Code (Articles 347-348/B).

According to that, in **lawsuits filed for the enforcement of personality rights related to belonging to a community**, the general rules of the Civil Procedure Code shall be applied with the following differences. The court in the territory whereof the defendant is resident, or in the absence of residence in Hungary, where the defendant's place of stay or - if the defendant is not a natural person - domestic registered office is located will be competent in the lawsuit. If this cannot be determined, the Court of Budapest will be competent in the lawsuit. The lawsuit can

only be connected with lawsuits filed for the enforcement of personality rights related to belonging to a community and based on the same factual basis. There is no possibility of counterclaim or intervention in the lawsuit. The application must include the time of the violation of rights and the supporting evidence must be attached, if available. In the application the claimant must declare about belonging to the community affected by the violation of rights. Legal representation is mandatory in all phases of the lawsuit.

The court is obliged to order the merger of lawsuits that are pending before it and pertain to the enforcement of personality rights related to belonging to a community if the claims concern the violation of rights on the same factual basis. In the case of identical factual basis, the lawsuits pending before courts of the same competence shall also be merged with the provision that the court where the earliest application was filed will conduct the proceedings. If the claimant enforces also a claim for the compensation of damage resulting from the violation of personality rights related to belonging to a community in the merged lawsuit, the court shall order its handling as a separate case and suspend that until final judgement is made in the lawsuit.

After lifting the suspension, the court shall handle the case in accordance with the general rules. The claimant certifies belonging to the community affected by the violation of rights in the declaration attached to the application. With regard to the important personality trait associated with belonging to the community, the court assesses whether the violation of the right offending the community may be suitable to violate, in general, the personality rights of a person belonging to the community, too. The solatium set having regard to the circumstances of the violation of rights – especially its gravity, repetitive nature, degree of culpability, and the effects of the violation on the community - shall be awarded in one lump sum, and the claimants enforcing the claim for solatium will be jointly and severally entitled to that sum.

Measures for improving discrimination within the Police, and their results

(1) The objective of Ordainment 22/2011 (of 21.10.) of the National Police Headquarters (abbreviated as: ORFK) on cooperation and liaison between the Police and Roma nationality self-governments is that police actions shall be carried out in a way free from intolerance. County police headquarters and police stations regard the implementation of equality of rights of nationalities as a priority issue in their work, consequently, they shall create good partnership and establish and maintain relations free from conflicts and prejudice between the police and the Roma; with the main areas being crime prevention, including the prevention of becoming a victim, an offender, or an addict. In order to achieve these goals, regional organizations put major emphasis everywhere to the creation of relations with nationality self-governments and strengthening the existing relations. In the recent period, cooperation has been good also in cases where no specific written agreement was concluded with nationality self-governments. The regional and local organizations have been continuously updating and modernizing the cooperation agreements. The county police headquarters have drawn up work plans for the improvement of relations between the police and the Roma nationality and the reduction of discrimination, and have fully implemented the tasks undertaken in those plans.

For the purpose of the uniform implementation of Ordainment 22/2011 of ORFK (of 21.10.) on Cooperation and Liaison between the Organisation Established for the Purpose of Carrying out General Police Tasks and Roma Nationality Self-Governments (hereinafter: Ordainment) as well as for the purpose of increasing efficiency, ORFK issued a national task plan under general no. 29000/4016-97/2013, which was adapted by the regional police units taking into

account the local circumstances. Crime prevention measures are a priority in the task plans. According to the Ordainment, a regional minority liaison working group operates at all police headquarters. Every police station has appointed minority liaisons who conduct continuous consultations with the leaders of the Roma nationality self-governments. The key importance of this matter is also emphasized by the fact that in Government Decision 1744/2013 (of 17.10.) on the National Crime Prevention Strategy (2013-2023) (hereinafter: Strategy) chapter 8.2.3. *The prevention and treatment of conflicts and violence* also deals with the theme mentioned in the proposal. The Strategy includes among others the main characteristics and key objectives of the intercultural process.

On the basis of Ordainment 27/2011 (of 30.12.) of the National Police Headquarters on Police Actions Performed in a Multicultural Environment, for the purpose of the conflict-free coexistence of local communities, the policemen responsible for public security are constantly prepared for the application of conflict management and mediation techniques, through the project "Peacekeeping in local communities". By a methodological guide, the police staff are informed about the possibilities to manage conflict situations related to the members of minority social groups, about behaviour expected during police measures made on the spot and about the protocol to be followed. In the briefings of the staff, the following were highlighted: the prohibition of discrimination, the significance of police actions free from prejudice, and the importance of objectivity required in all cases of taking measures. The Romology studies were conducted in parallel, they gave an insight into the situation of the Roma, the peculiarities of their way of life and the consequent differences.

Regarding discriminative and racist incidents within the police, we can conclude that the complaints mechanism aimed at the investigation of all police abuses (i.e. of discriminatory or racist motivation) and the civilian control of police activities are in the forefront also in European comparison, as a result of the establishment and many years of work of – among others – the *Independent Policing Complaints Board*.

(2) The presence of the Roma and people of other nationalities in the police staff has been an emphasized theme in both the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers (CM/ResCMN(2011)13) and in the opinion of the Advisory Committee (ACFC/OP/III(2010)001). On information and awareness forums and career guidance presentations, secondary schools – especially where the proportion of Roma young people is very high – are encouraged to consider the possibility of introducing facultative law enforcement training, because after finishing this school the students have better chances to be admitted to law enforcement educational institutions if they possess such a basic qualification. The Ministry of Interior motivates Roma nationality self-governments and Roma non-government organizations to initiate the same. The national law enforcement career orientation camp was similarly organized by the Ministry of Interior on the base site of Adyliget Police Technical School in summer 2013 – for the tenth time – for Roma secondary school students and young people under the age of 21 who have already graduated from secondary school, with about 50 participants. Participation in the five-day camp was free of charge, the costs were borne by the Ministry. The programme of the camp focused on giving an insight into the admission requirements and practicing the entrance tests. Based on experience from previous camps, about half of the participants were admitted to police school institutions.

Besides, police vocational secondary schools have drawn up preferential conditions for the admission of Roma young people to police vocational secondary schools. The participants of the Roma scholarship programme of the police receive five extra points, which were recognized already for those who applied for the school year starting in September 2013. In addition to maintaining the scholarship application system that started in ORFK in 1996 and covers the students of secondary and tertiary schools, the National Directorate General for

Disaster Management (OKF) and the Hungarian Prison Service Headquarters (BVOP) have also created their scholarship systems, expecting disadvantaged applicants from the 2012 school year. In announcing job vacancies and training opportunities, the Ministry of Interior ensures that the information reaches also the Roma young people; also using the assistance of the National Roma Self-Government, the Roma nationality self-governments and non-government organizations. Upon initiative by the National Roma Self-Government, 32 Roma young people have been employed with the Police since October 2011. About three-quarters of the policemen then admitted were still employed by the police in autumn 2013, as professionals or public servants.

Rapporteurs/mentors responsible for Roma affairs are appointed at the educational institutions and employers of the Ministry of Interior in order to assist and mentor the integration of Roma young people who are admitted to police education, are employed by law enforcement organizations and who voluntarily declare their ethnic identity, and to monitor the solution of their everyday problems arising from their disadvantaged situation.

Results of combating intolerance in the reporting period

(1) In November 2011, organized in partnership by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the Ministry of Interior (hereinafter: BM), a publication was presented and a seminar was held about the good practices collected in relation to the identification and investigation of hate crimes, for the concerned organizations of interior, the prosecutor's office and the interested non-governmental organizations. The participants received the Hungarian translation of the publication which was delivered to ORFK. In accordance with the prevailing regulations, BM prepared and issued the Ministry's *Equal Opportunity Plan* in 2011 and in 2013. In the first part of 2013, as per the Action Plan of BM for the execution of Government Decision 1430/2011 (of 13.12.) on the National Social Inclusion Strategy and the governmental action plan for its execution in 2012-2014 (XII. 13.), the nationality questionnaire survey was conducted and processed with regard to the employees of the Ministry and the organizations controlled by it.

The students learn about the protection of human rights within the framework of the basic curriculum, in all specializations at the Faculty of Law Enforcement of the National University of Public Service, in Human Rights and in Social and Communication Sciences subjects, and in the police specializations also in the Police Sociology and Police Ethics subjects. In the police leadership master's degree programme, students learn about the protection of human rights as part of the Integrated Social Sciences subject. According to the vocational framework curriculum in police NCO training, the students acquire this knowledge during the police basic tasks module, primarily in the subject of Citizenship and Human Rights (additionally, when mastering the professional knowledge, they also review the aspects thereof related to the protection of human rights). In the law enforcement sectorial training 'Armed forces and property security' launched in vocational secondary schools, students learn about the particularities of the enforcement of human rights at armed forces in the frames of the 'Basics of state, constitutional and international law' subject.

(2) With regard to the measures aimed at the local combat of intolerance, it should be noted that such problems in conjunction with the activities of the police have arisen primarily in Debrecen at the Refugee Camp and in Balassagyarmat at the Community Accommodation. (We should note here though that, according to the prevailing laws, the refugees are not included in the 13 historical nationalities recognized by the Nationality Act, that is why these

are not detailed here – nevertheless, the measures relate to the combat of intolerance.) The police have taken efficient measures in both cities to maintain public order and public security, and to increase its presence in public places in order to prevent violation of rights which may induce conflicts, as well as the intolerance deriving (also) from that.

Measures for the social integration of the Roma

The government programme handles the problems of the Roma as a national issue, and not only as poor policy. In 2010, the Government positioned the promoted inclusion of the people living in extreme poverty (including people of Roma origin), through special economic and social development programmes, high in the governmental hierarchy by setting up the stand-alone State Secretariat for Social Inclusion and making it one of its policy's priorities. Improving the circumstances of the Roma people and reducing the number of people living in poverty is not only a national, but a European issue. The Hungarian government had - and continues to have - an important role in making it a European issue. A change of comprehensive significance is that the Fourth Amendment to the Fundamental Law of Hungary (Section XV (4) of the Fundamental Law of Hungary) raised the concept of *social inclusion* to the level of the fundamental law, thereby inducing further legislative steps. In the following we report about the governmental measures for the elimination of discrimination and promotion of the social integration of the Roma.

(1) As part of the proclaimed Social Inclusion Policy, the Hungarian Government prepared the European framework strategy for Roma issues, and concluded a Framework Agreement with the National Roma Self-Government (NRSZ) (as already mentioned) during its EU presidency in 2011. With the establishment of the Roma Reconciliatory Council, the Government raised the issue of social inclusion to the highest level. The main tasks of this body are to prepare recommendations for the strategic orientation of the inclusion and Roma policy, and to monitor its execution. In line with the above and for the sake of reducing social inequalities and ensuring social security, the Government adopted the **National Social Inclusion Strategy** (hereinafter: Inclusion Strategy) in its Decision 1430/2011 (of 13.12.), and the governmental action plan for its execution in 2012-2014. The aim of the Government is that the Inclusion Policy shall integrate the strategies related to child poverty, Roma issue and the disadvantaged regions. The National Social Inclusion Strategy is to show a way out for all those who live in poverty, regardless of nationality. The Inclusion Strategy is consistent with the poverty reduction objectives and measures of the National Reform Programme linked to the Europe 2020 strategy, with the objectives set out in the Framework Agreement concluded between the Government and NRSZ on 20 May 2011, as well as with the detailed action plan included in Government Decision 1338/2011 (of 14.10.) prepared in order to achieve quantifiable objectives.

In relation to the poverty-related objective of the Europe 2020 Strategy, Hungary undertakes a 20% reduction in the rate of poverty of families with children, the number of those living in severe material deprivation and the number of people living in households of low labour intensity each by 2020; which is equivalent to bringing 450 thousand people out of poverty – after eliminating the overlaps in the population covered by the three indicators. The comprehensive objectives of the Inclusion Strategy – in line with the domestic poverty reduction objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy – are the following:

1. To reduce the rate of people living in poverty and social exclusion, especially regarding the Roma population.

2. To prevent the reproduction of poverty and social exclusion.
3. To improve accessibility to social economic wealth with equal opportunities and to strengthen national cohesion.

The measures of the Inclusion Strategy focus on areas where intervention is most needed on the basis of the situation with regard to disadvantaged social groups, particularly the Roma and those living in deep poverty. Such issues are: child poverty, access to quality public services (integrated education, basic health care, community development), labour market integration, housing segregation, and discrimination against the Roma. The Government supports the reduction in the number of people living in poverty – in addition to the comprehensive economic and social policy measures – primarily through complex programmes, as well as integrated regional and equal opportunity programmes focusing on the disadvantaged regions.

A prominent pioneering initiative among the measures of the Inclusion Strategy is, among others, the *network of Sure Start Children's Houses*. The *Social Land Programme*, in operation since 1992 in Hungary, has helped the subsistence of about 2657 families in 2012 and implemented the employment of 1401, while in 2013 it ensured subsistence for 4340 families. More than 30,000 disadvantaged students participate in "*Útravaló*" *Scholarship Programme* and in *Arany János College Programmes*. Nearly 5500 new places have been created through kindergarten developments in the disadvantaged regions, by using resources amounting to nearly HUF 15 billion.

(2) The low level of employment seen for decades now is an issue of outstanding significance. It can be clearly stated that the number of employed people has increased in the recent years, and one of the most significant commitments of the Government is to preserve the existing jobs and create new ones. The *Workplace Protection Action Plan* has been established to this end. Besides the targeted employment subsidies and programmes, we should mention the measures of the Action Plan - also supported by the entrepreneur sector - which provide special support for the employment of primarily those having the highest employment handicap: the young people, persons whose work does not require skills, those returning to work after childcare leave, permanent jobseekers, and those above the age of 55; thus the employment of over 1 million people, by an amount of HUF 300 billion.

Regarding the measures for the employability and employment of disadvantaged people, including the Roma, the number of people involved in public employment shall be emphasized. On the basis of the data of 2013 of the National Employment Service, 283,244 persons from among those who exited the register were jobseekers with no higher education than primary school. 141,715 people with no higher education than primary school started their participation in public employment in one of the public employment programmes. 9735 of them were entrants: for them public employment was the first legal employment possibility. The estimated number of Roma people involved in public employment was 54,769 in 2012. The social land programme was changed – which is unique in European social policy – and it is connected to public employment. The call for tenders in 2012 stresses the importance of cooperation with Roma national self-governments; eligible applicants now also include social cooperatives in case of programmes related to acquisition or development of assets and garden culture. The programme provides 2657 families with subsistence and 1401 people with employment.

The execution of programmes co-funded by the European Union and supporting Roma women's training and employment in the social, child welfare and child protection services system has started. During its implementation, expectedly 750 Roma women will be employed in the social and child welfare services system. It is important that the Roma people

participating in the training will have the opportunity to obtain marketable profession registered in the National Register of Trainings. In the frames of the SoROP 2.1.6 "Learning again" project, a planned number of 3000 people will obtain a marketable profession, and 830 people have already started the training. In the frames of the SoROP 1.1.2 key project, more than 53% of the commitment related to 16,500- people has been fulfilled in the first 20 months of the four-year project, and county labour centres managed to maintain the ratio of nearly 15% of Roma involvement in projects also pro rata (8764 of the 60,317 people involved until late 2012 were Roma, based on voluntary declaration). The number of Roma participants in winter-time public employment was, according to National Labour Office data of 31 December 2013: 17,725 people.

The Ministry of Public Administration and Justice has given the following information about the rapporteurs for Roma affairs of township offices. As a result of cooperation between the NRSO and the capital and county government offices, altogether about 100 rapporteurs for Roma affairs started working in the township and capital district offices nationwide in summer 2013. In order to acquire the knowledge necessary for their work, a professional training was organized for the rapporteurs for Roma affairs – before their employment – in the frames of StROP 1.2.7. "Organizational development of government offices" project. To ensure their successful work, the training was aimed at, in addition to teaching the basic public administration knowledge, their integration in the office organization, at giving adequate knowledge about the case categories which are a priority in terms of the rapporteur programme, as well as efficient communication with the personnel of the office and the customers. The rapporteurs primarily act as mediators between state administration and Roma citizens during their work. The employment of Roma employees may greatly facilitate the successful administrative arrangements of Roma people, and thereby easier integration in the society. This project, within the framework of StROP, provided the possibility of employing rapporteurs for Roma affairs until late December 2013, and township offices continue their employment from 1 January 2014 from their own budgetary resources.

(3) Regarding the programmes assisting the school career of children and young people, and increasing their chances of training and education, the State Secretariat for Social Inclusion reported that the inclusion of disadvantaged children (including the Roma) was aided by EU resources of more than total HUF 16 billion in 2012, taking into account only those which are coordinated by the State Secretariat for Social Inclusion. The launched tenders support activities such as: ensuring access to quality education for students and children with multiple disadvantages, including especially the Roma; increasing the ratio of children who go to kindergarten; supporting the transition from kindergarten to elementary school; as well as study programmes for the reduction of their drop-out, and second chance programmes helping the drop-outs in achieving secondary school graduation or vocational qualifications. The tender programme for supporting the admission of disadvantaged secondary school students to tertiary education was started as a new programme.

In 2012 the *Integrational Pedagogic System*, with a resource of HUF 6.8 billion, was one of the largest educational programmes fitted in the system of public education, aimed at social inclusion; in these frames 78,626 students and 25,269 kindergarten children received aids in the 2012/2013 school year.

The decree amendment of 2011 has introduced the definition of performance in the equal opportunities sub-programmes of *Útravaló–MACIKA Scholarship Programme*. The payment of the scholarship depends on the student's results. The requirement that at least 50% of the newly

entering students shall be Roma was also stipulated. In the 2012/2013 school year, about total 17,000 students - including the former participants and the new entrants - took part in the Road to Vocation, Road to Secondary School, and Road to the Secondary School Leaving Examination sub-programmes, and 66% of the new entrants declared themselves to be of the Roma ethnicity. The amounts of scholarships have been significantly increased as from the 2013/2014 school year, and are dependent on the grade point average.

(4) The action plan of the Inclusion Strategy includes four specific measures related to housing, aimed at equal access to state housing subsidies, quality education useful spare time, at supporting the school advancement of disadvantaged children, and the establishment of a tracking system of the development programmes. Besides the measures identified, further state measures contribute to the implementation of these objectives. The progress of the measures – as of June 2013 – is presented in the following table:

Code of measure	Short title of the measure	Progress
V.1.	Review of housing subsidies	R
V.2.	Urban development programmes	P
V.3.	Complex programmes for zone settlements	P
V.4.	Regulation of the creation of social tenements	P

R: Realized – P: According to plan – D: Delayed – M: requires management actions

Source: Ministry of Human Capacities

There was advancement with regard to complex programmes for those living in segregated housing environments or in zone settlements in the reporting period. In the first period, the programme elements for the individuals' human preparation were either missing or not duly efficient – the elimination of zone settlements meant mainly their "dozing". However, the 8 local pilot projects, which involved 400 people in a complex training, employment and community programme, were closed in 2012. In the frames of this programme, 200 people took part in subsidized training and 300 in subsidized employment, additionally, 24 institution providing community services were established and about 100 residential units, community buildings were renovated. The human development tender of the complex zone programmes was called in EU co-financing with a sum of HUF 4.68 billion; it was first increased by HUF 1 billion and later again by HUF 2.31 billion by the Government. In the first round of the tender, 22 winning programmes were able to start their work in 31 segregated areas. The tender SIOP 3.2.3/A Subsidy for Housing Investments was called for the same winners in 2013, providing opportunity for infrastructural investments, the construction of new apartments and the modernization of the existing ones. The establishment of the mentor network for equal opportunities renders help free of charge in the frames of a key project (StROP 1.1.16 „Ensuring the capacities of the development policy based on the principles of equal opportunities”), facilitating the implementation of Act CXXV of 2003 on Equal Treatment and the Promotion of Equal Opportunities and Government Decree 321/2011 (of 27.12.) on the Rules of Preparation of Local Equal Opportunity Programmes and Equal Opportunity Mentors.

(The Inclusion Strategy and the related integration objectives and measures are presented in detail in Chapter III of the Country Report, in the information provided regarding Article 4 of the Framework Convention.)

Nationality education

Act CXC of 2011 on National Public Education (hereinafter: Public Education Act) and the Nationality Act have created the legal, organizational and financial guarantees for nationality self-governments to operate educational institutions.

(1) The State Secretariat for Education has provided the following information about reforming the regulators of nationality education. The reform of public education included the reform of nationality education. After the issuance of the new national core curriculum (hereinafter: NCC) the EMMI Resolution on the issuance of guidelines for nationality pre-school and school education, specifying the content, framework and development tasks of nationality education - (hereinafter: Guideline) and the nationality framework curricula have also been reviewed and reformed. Both regulations were issued with the consent of the national minority self-governments, based on Section 5 (9) of the Public Education Act) . The Guideline has changed in several respects, as a result of consultations with NRSZG:

- Among the forms of nationality kindergarten and school education: the notions of kindergartens conducting Roma/Gypsy cultural education and Roma/Gypsy nationality education have been refined. Only kindergartens conducting Roma/Gypsy cultural education in the Hungarian language and Roma/Gypsy nationality education in the Hungarian language are specified as independent forms of education; the kindergartens educating in and the schools teaching the Romani or Boyash languages are considered integral parts of nationality native language and nationality bilingual kindergartens and of nationality native language and nationality bilingual schools or those educating the language of the nationality, respectively.
- Also the timeframe specified for nationality studies and (in schools teaching the nationality language) the timeframe for the education of the native language has changed. The timeframe for educating the Romani and Boyash languages has increased from two to 3 lessons per week, and there is no possibility to set the whole timeframe in blocks any longer. The National Roma Self-Government agreed to this change and noted that – although considered necessary – the weakness of language teacher training does not allow the stipulation of more class hours, that is why they agreed to its gradual raising.
- In addition to the above, in the first four years of the primary school, the timeframe for nationality education has increased from half to one lesson per week in the case of all nationalities, including the Roma; the possibility of integrating those lessons has been eliminated, it must be taught as an independent lesson.
- The resolution has been augmented with standard forms for organizing and initiating participation in nationality education; and the development tasks detailed by nationality, made in Hungarian and the nationality language within the structure of the National Core Curriculum (NCC) and forming a basis for the review of the nationality framework curricula have also been reformed at the proposal of the nationality education experts.

(Detailed information about further issues of nationality education, the headcount of kindergartens and schools, normative and tendered subsidies provided from the state budget, and the operational experience of educational institutions maintained by nationality self-

governments is provided in Chapter III of the Country Report, in the information regarding Articles 12, 13, and 14 of the Framework Convention.)

Roma integration programmes in education, disadvantaged children and special schools

In the following a report will be given about the governmental measures taken in the reporting period for eliminating the practice of Roma children's exclusion and segregation (with regard to the situation of this reporting period), in reply to the recommendations of Resolution no. CM/ResCMN(2011)13 of the Committee of Ministers and Opinion no. ACFC/OP/III(2010)001 of the Advisory Committee. The below measures, gathered in connection with the legislative changes prohibiting segregation and discrimination in education, as well as the measures aimed at the improvement of Roma children's and students' educational opportunities, also relate to the National Social Inclusion Strategy, the "Making Things Better for our Children" National Strategy and the EU2020 Strategy.

(1) In the 2011/2012 school year the number and proportion of disadvantaged children (hereinafter: D) and of multiple disadvantaged children (hereinafter: MD) was as follows:

- in kindergartens the proportion of D and MD was 31% and 11%, respectively;
- in primary schools the proportions were 36% and 14%, respectively;
- in vocational schools the proportions were 31% and 11%, respectively;
- in secondary grammar schools the proportions were 10% and 1.6%, respectively;
- in vocational secondary schools the proportions were 16% and 2.8%, respectively.

In terms of region, the North Great Plain and Northern Hungary are in the worst situation: the proportion of disadvantaged students in these two regions is 18 and 16 percentage points higher than the national average, respectively, and as regards multiple disadvantaged students it is 11 and 10 percentage points higher, respectively. By contrast, the percentage (14%) of those belonging to a vulnerable group in Central Hungary does not reach half the average, and the proportion of MD (3%) does not reach a third of the national figure. There is a negative correlation between the size of towns and the proportion of vulnerable persons, and, accordingly, the indicators are the highest in townships with less than 3,000 residents (proportion of D: 54%, proportion of MD: 27%) and the lowest in cities with populations of more than 50,000 (proportion of D: 15%, proportion of MD: 2.5%). (Source: (Statistical data collection on public education, 2011/2012; Educational data of the Central Statistical Office 2011/2012) Based on estimations, two-thirds or three-quarters of Roma children are multiple disadvantaged⁴.

Roma students will be segregated and concentrated in separate study groups or schools "designated" for this purpose in situations where the pressure of separation experienced in the public education system (creation of classes that are "easy to teach", enrolment competition) is accompanied by prejudices and expectations based on stereotypes against the Roma. In addition, there are reasons for the segregation of Roma students that are hard to deal with by educational means, for example segregation based on the place of residence and the fact that the children of non-Roma parents are enrolled in schools further away not attended by Roma

⁴ G. Kertesi – G. Kézdi: Iskolázatlan szülők gyermekei és a roma fiatalok a középiskolában (Children of unschooled parents and young Roma people in secondary schools. Beszámoló az Educatio Életpálya-felvételének 2006 és 2009. közötti hullámaiból, (Report on the waves of the Educatio Career Survey between 2006 and 2009) 2010.)

students.⁵ Some of the most vulnerable children have no access to kindergarten at all or start to attend only at the age of five⁶ – therefore it is an important step forward regarding the inclusion of the Roma that the age limit for mandatory kindergarten enrolment has been changed to three years from the previous five. Pursuant to the regulations adopted during the reporting period, from September 2014, instead of the previous requirement of five years of age, kindergarten attendance will be obligatory from the age of three, thereby facilitating successful inclusion and progress at school later on, which also serves the prevention of early school-leaving. This measure also supports parents' participation in the labour market.

(2) The participation on the labour market of those completing the primary school the most is very low; their employment rate is almost 20 percentage points less than the EU average, which poses an obstacle to the growth of Hungarian economy and the expansion of employment. Large numbers of the most disadvantaged children got in vocational schools, where the drop-out rate is higher than average (nearly 30 per cent). In Hungary, the parents' school qualifications and occupation play an important role in the child's progress in school. According to the PISA survey, the parents' school qualifications in Hungary have a greater influence on the child's academic achievement than in the OECD countries in general, and the parents' occupation determines academic achievement to the greatest extent in Hungary among the OECD countries. According to the definition of the international survey, the public educational system of a country is fair if it is able to balance the students' disadvantages and provides access to high-quality education for every student irrespective of the social and economic status of his or her family. Therefore, the most important public educational goals in terms of social inclusion are the following: providing access for disadvantaged children – including Roma children – to quality education, reducing the proportion of early school-leavers and improving the level of qualifications obtained.

(3) Based on the social and economic background outlined above, the improvement of disadvantaged and multiple disadvantaged children's situation (including Roma children) as well as the prevention of passing on poverty to the next generation are also the key issues of the educational system. Social inequalities can only be mitigated if done in a manner whereby the opportunity of acquiring and improving the competences necessary for studying is ensured for all, concurrent with improving the role of education in providing equal opportunities. The conflicts accompanying the broadening of social differences have pointed out the need to improve the quality of the educational system and, in addition to this, new standards and values must be presented to reduce inequalities experienced in education. Such values are represented by the methods reinforcing inclusion and supporting integrated education, and the use of anti-discriminatory elements and positive discrimination. Education governance takes the following measures in order to create educational opportunities for especially vulnerable social groups and disadvantaged children:

As for statutory provisions, in order to prohibit and prevent unlawful segregation, Act CXXV of 2003 on Equal Treatment and the Promotion of Equal Opportunities includes the prohibition

⁵ Méltányosság az oktatásban: dimenziók, okok és oktatáspolitikai válaszok (Equity in education: dimensions, reasons and education political answers), OECD analytic country report, 2007.

⁶ Herczog, M.: A kora gyermekkori fejlődés elősegítése (The facilitation of early childhood development), Budapest, 2008.; Pék, K. (2002): Romák és óvodák. Kisebbségkutatás (The Roma and kindergartens. Minority research); Szabó-Tóth, K. (2007): Adalékok a roma gyermekek óvodáztatásának kérdésköréhez (Comments on the issue of Roma children in kindergarten care). Új Pedagógiai Szemle; Havas, G. (2007): Esélyegyenlőség – deszegregáció (Equal opportunities – desegregation).

of school segregation and of direct and indirect discrimination, based on the UNESCO convention on the prohibition of discrimination. The implementing decree of the Equal Treatment Act, that is, Government Decree 321/2011 (of 27.12.) on the Rules for the Preparation of Local Equal Opportunities Programmes requires the local governments to compile local equal opportunities programmes, consisting of a situation analysis and an action plan. The following must be revealed in the situation analysis, with respect to the equal opportunities in public education of multiple disadvantaged children:

- a) rate of segregation between institutions and within the individual institutions;
- b) differences between institutions in the efficiency of education;
- c) differences in the students' school results;
- d) kindergarten care of children with multiple disadvantages.

The action plan based on the situation analysis must contain the measures serving the termination of educational exclusion. The decree also prescribes the regular review of the fulfilment of measures.

The preservation of the requirement for equal treatment, which involves the establishment of the nullity and invalidity of unlawful decisions, is among the principles of the Public Education Act which entered into force in September 2012. Article 38 of Government Decree 229/2012 (of 28.08.) on the Execution of the National Public Education Act includes provisions related to official audits and, thus, the identification and elimination of the practice of unlawful segregation. According to the legislation, the government offices take the necessary measures to eliminate irregularities identified in relation to the compliance with the requirements of equal treatment. The ministry in charge of education also takes measures to conduct official inspections in the cases it obtains knowledge of or as a result of the inspection conducted by the parliamentary commissioner for fundamental rights. The purpose of the regulation of the catchment areas of primary schools is to eliminate and prevent school segregation. Article 24 of Decree 20/2012 (of 31.08.) on the Operation of Educational Institutions and the Name Use of Public Educational Institutions requires schools responsible for mandatory admission not to segregate students on the basis of their origin and social situation. Consequently, when setting the district limits of a primary school responsible for mandatory admission, the social and economic status of the families living in the vicinity of the school must be taken into account. The application in legislation of definitions aimed at defining groups in need of special treatment and pedagogical attention (socially disadvantaged children, multiple disadvantaged children, children with special educational needs) also serves the purpose of properly targeting the programmes and measures, as well as the prevention of unlawful segregation.

As for the measures and programmes introduced for the prevention of unlawful segregation and for the reinforcement of the opportunity-creating role of education and training, the strengthening of early childhood education has a crucial role in preventing social exclusion and contributing to children's success in school, which is also supported by the above-mentioned reduction of the age limit for mandatory kindergarten attendance. The measures reinforcing kindergarten care as the initial stage of lifelong learning include the expansion of the capacities of kindergartens, the implementation of programmes improving kindergarten care, kindergarten enrolment support for vulnerable families and the supplementation of remuneration for teachers taking part in the kindergarten and school education of multiple disadvantaged children. The number of schemes for the expansion of kindergarten capacities launched at the end of 2011 (SGPOP-4.2.1-11, NGPOP-4.1.1/A-11, NHOP-4.3.1/A-11, CHOP-4.6.1-11), supported by a total budget of HUF 9.3 billion (development of at least 1 group room for 20 children/tender), was as follows:

- SGPOP-4.2.1-11: 22 supported tenders with a support budget of HUF 1.9 billion.

- NGPOP - 4.1.1 /A-11: 24 supported tenders with a support budget of HUF 1.9 billion
- NHOP-4.3.1/A-11: 21 supported projects with a support budget of HUF 1.86 billion
- CHOP-4.6.1-11: 46 supported projects with a support budget of HUF 2.7 billion

Pursuant to Article 20/C of the Child Protection Act, the guardianship authority shall pay a financial aid to the parents of multiple disadvantaged children provided that the parents enrolled their children of three or four years of age in the kindergarten, ensure that their children regularly attend the kindergarten and are eligible for the regular child protection benefit. In 2012, the amount of the aid was HUF 20,000 per child for the first time; after that it was HUF 10,000 per case and per child.

(4) As regards the prevention of early school-leaving by disadvantaged and multiple disadvantaged (including Roma) children and students, the improvement of their chance to access quality education and the increase of their level of qualifications, the State Secretariat for Public Education has provided the following information. The Public Education Act that entered into force in September 2012 uses the definitions serving the purpose of defining groups that require special treatment and pedagogical attention (special educational need, socially disadvantaged and multiple disadvantaged children, talented children). These definitions are aimed at appropriately targeting the pedagogical supports and programmes supporting children's progress in school. The new National Core Curriculum (Government Decree 110/2012 (of 04.06.)), which was adopted in 2012 and entered into force in September 2013, provides the primary regulation for the content of public education. The National Core Curriculum pays special attention to improving the acquisition of basic skills, thereby improving results in extended education and reducing the risk of students dropping out.

Using Hungarian funds, the Government supports a kindergarten development programme and a skills development and integration preparation scheme (Pedagogical System of Integration) operated for the purpose of ensuring the academic success of disadvantaged and multiple disadvantaged students and for compensating their disadvantages arising from their social situation; the teachers participating in the programme receive salary supplements. Areas supported by the measures: integrated education, institutional development, pedagogical reform, personalised learning support, cooperation with the social environment of schools, liaison with parents. During the 2011/2012 academic year 74,000 multiple disadvantaged students and 20,000 children attending kindergarten participated in the programme. Based on the Budget Act for 2012, the funds available for these tasks were HUF 6.8 billion. In order for students to progress smoothly to secondary educational institutions and to enjoy successful extended learning, a certain amount of financial expenditure is required, which causes difficulties for many families. The targeted programmes (Arany János programmes – more than 4,000 students per year; learning centre programmes) and scholarship programmes ("Útravaló – MACIKA" Scholarship Programme –14,192 students in the 2013/2014 academic year) are intended to mitigate this difficulty. The beneficiaries of these programmes are children and students who belong to the most vulnerable social groups (disadvantaged or multiple disadvantaged children, including Roma children, children in child protection care, refugees) and for whom these programmes provide pedagogical, social and cultural support of a complex nature.

(5) In accordance with its Resolution 1136/2011 (of 02.05.) on Certain Short-term Measures Aimed at Social Inclusion and in order to achieve the quantified targets envisaged in the Framework Agreement concluded by the Government and the National Roma Self-Government, the Government had to facilitate the percentile measurability of disadvantaged Roma young people's access to *Útravaló – MACIKA Scholarship Programme*. Since autumn

2011 it has been a requirement for all the equal opportunity sub-programmes ("Road to Secondary School", "Road to the Secondary School-leaving Examination" and "Road to Vocation") of "Útravaló – MACIKA" scholarship programme to have at least 50% involvement from students of Roma origin. In the 2011/2012 academic year, almost 60% of the new students in the scholarship programme, that is, a total of 6,851 students were of Roma origin. In the 2012/2013 academic year, altogether 16,636 students were supported and given assistance by mentors in the three public education sub-programmes, including 9,178 students who declared that they were of Roma origin, which is 55% of the total number of students. 78% (13,051 students) of the students participating in all of the public education sub-programmes were multiple disadvantaged. The above indicate that positive discrimination is successful in the case of the sub-programmes, since mentors apply for the programmes with the appropriate number of Roma and multiple disadvantaged students.

In 2012, the "Road to Tertiary Education" sub-programme, consisting of scholarship and the payment of tuition fees, was introduced as a new part of the Scholarship Programme. Its purpose is to support first-year students in the programme in order to enable them to start their tertiary education. This sub-programme has two components: within the framework of the scholarship grant component, successful applicants receive a monthly amount of HUF 20,000 as non-refundable grant in the autumn 2012 and the spring 2013 semesters. Within the framework of the payment of tuition fees, fee-paying students received a maximum amount of HUF 300,000/semester, and students partially financed through a scholarship from the Hungarian State received a maximum amount of HUF 150,000/semester in the autumn 2012 and the spring 2013 semesters. The amount of the support could not be more than 90% of the tuition fee and could not be less than 60% of the tuition fee. Depending on the amount of their tuition fee, students receive the highest amount of support that can be awarded to them based on the maximum amount specified in the call for applications. From the second semester, students are entitled to the support, regarding both components, if they prove that they have obtained half of the number of credits specified in the sample curriculum. Total 399 students participated in the "Road to Tertiary Education" sub-programme, including 387 who received a scholarship, and the programme contributed to 17 students' tuition fees. A total number of 57 students (14%) declared that they were of Roma origin. Not more than 20% of the participants, that is, 83 students were multiple disadvantaged. The reason for this may be that unfortunately, multiple disadvantaged and Roma students are less likely to get into tertiary education from the very beginning.

More than 4,000 disadvantaged and multiple disadvantaged vulnerable students participated in "*Arany János Talent Management Programme for Disadvantaged Students*", "*Arany János Student Hostel Programme for Disadvantaged Students*" and "*Arany János Student Hostel and Vocational School Programme for Multiple Disadvantaged Students*" in the 2011/2012 academic year. These programmes provide a complex support for participating in tertiary education, passing the secondary school-leaving examination or learning a trade, according to the conditions specified in Decree 17/2004 (of 20.05.) of the Minister of Education on the Order of Issuing and Approving Framework Curricula and on the Amendment of Certain Laws on Education, and in Decree 46/2001 (of 22.12.) of the Minister of Education on Issuing the National Base Programme on Education in Student Hostels. The calls for students' applications for the 2013/2014 academic year were published in September 2012. To improve the chances on the labour market of students who opt for vocational training, the Government has introduced a three-year vocational training programme. The ratio of drop-out increased in the 9th and 10th years of the vocational schools over the past years, so drop-out began already before students started to learn their profession. With the help of the three-year vocational

training, students can start vocational training directly after finishing primary school, and they have the chance to get acquainted with the practical aspects of their vocation in the 9th to 11th years, at a particularly responsive age, and the drop-out rate can also decrease concurrently, so they can get their vocational qualification earlier. The number of students participating in the bridging programme for vocational school was 1,570 in the first semester of 2012 and 1,567 in the second semester; the programme involves 42 maintenance entities and 52/48 institutions, which is a decrease compared to the corresponding period of 2011. A major reason for the decrease was that the institutions placed under the governance of county institution maintenance centres could not apply for this support.

The aim of implementing "*Second Chance*" programmes (see the "Híd" (Bridge) programme and schemes implemented with EU support) is to help young students who have not completed secondary education, who have dropped out of the school system, and who in some cases are above the age of compulsory education to obtain secondary school qualifications, and to reduce student failure by introducing new methods of supporting learning which respond to individual needs. The Public Education Act introduced the concept of the Bridge programmes: these programmes comprise a school-system training form that can render help to students who perform poor in elementary education and give a chance to those who could not finish the elementary level to go on and learn at the secondary level. They also provide young adults over the compulsory school attendance age who dropped out of the formal school system with a chance for education and training. Within the framework of the "Híd" ("Bridge") programme (Article 14 of Act CXC of 2011) implemented from September 2013, when the new public education system is launched, bridging classes can be organised for students to obtain primary school qualifications, to enter secondary education, to promote their success in vocational studies and to help them to resume their unfinished school studies.

The EU-supported developments launched in 2012 to strengthen the opportunity equalising function of education are aimed at improving the quality of education and promoting cooperation among the professional and social environments of institutions, through programmes and comprehensive interventions which are particularly targeted at supporting the most disadvantaged regions. The objective of these programmes is to enable the institutional system itself to provide effective education to students, and they contain programme elements (e.g. services, grants, incentives) directly aimed at compensating the disadvantages and improving the opportunities of multiple disadvantaged children. The National Talent Programme also contains measures aimed at improving the proportion of disadvantaged and multiple disadvantaged students in talent development programmes. Calls for applications aimed at improving the chance of equal access to talent development services were published within the framework of the programme. The call for applications "Support for programmes improving access for Roma youth to talent management services provided in an integrative environment" (NTP-RITP-11) was published on 24 March 2012; it supported cooperation among the minority self-governments of the Roma, various Roma organisations and Talent Points, and helped young Roma people become talent mentors. In 2012, HUF 40.5 million was distributed within the framework of the call for applications.

(6) From among the EU-supported developments announced in 2012, under the scheme "Extending the role of public educational institutions and establishing new co-operations between institutions (introduction of schemes assisting and promoting learning)" (*SoROP-3.2.1. A-11/1*), the total budget available for eligible public expenditure in the Central Hungary region (hereinafter: the CHR) was HUF 130,000,000 at the time when the call for applications was announced. The budget available for eligible public expenditure was HUF 1,170,000,000

when the Convergence Region (*SoROP-3.2.1. A-11/2*) call for applications was announced. The purpose of the scheme was to support public educational institutions in adapting new forms of learning, developing informal learning opportunities and supporting new types of institutional cooperation. The programme was intended to develop forms of learning for students who cannot be taught within the traditional, formal institutional framework, or who are hard to teach within such a framework, tailored to these students' personal needs and requirements and assisting students in obtaining school qualifications or learning a trade.

The basic purpose of the scheme "Supporting the developments, based on equal opportunities, of public educational institutions in disadvantaged micro-regions" (*SoROP-3.3.8. B-12*) was to enable public educational institutions to successfully educate and teach multiple disadvantaged children/students (including Roma children) and to contribute to their success in school in the disadvantaged and the most disadvantaged micro-regions. The scheme also supports educational institutions teaching mostly multiple disadvantaged students to perform activities at all-day school that promote the improvement of students' academic achievements. The budget available at the time when the call for applications was announced was HUF 2,000,000,000 (HUF 447,000,000 for CHR).

When the call for applications "Supporting measures for preventing the drop-out of multiple disadvantaged students – Supporting extracurricular programmes" (*SoROP-3.3.9 A-12/1,2*) was announced, the budget available for eligible public expenditure was HUF 380,000,000 in CHR and HUF 1,620,000,000 in convergence regions. When the call for applications "Supporting measures for preventing the drop-out of multiple disadvantaged students – Supporting second chance type programmes" (*SoROP-3.3.9 B-12/1*) was announced, the available budget was HUF 300,000,000 (CHR) and HUF 1,700,000,000 (convergence regions). When the call for applications "Supporting measures for preventing the drop-out of multiple disadvantaged students – Supporting extracurricular programmes in disadvantaged micro-regions" (*SoROP-3.3.9 C-12*) was announced, the budget available for eligible public expenditure was HUF 2,000,000,000. When the call for applications "Supporting measures for preventing the drop-out of multiple disadvantaged students – Supporting second chance type programmes in disadvantaged regions" (*SoROP-3.3.9 D-12*) was announced, the budget available for eligible public expenditure was HUF 1,500,000,000.

Enforcing the media rights of nationalities

The operation and maintenance of the media of nationalities are guaranteed by acts in Hungary. The public service broadcasters broadcast regular radio and television programmes to all 13 nationalities in Hungary, in their native languages. In the first half of the reporting period, between 2009 and 2011, there were separate radio and television programmes for the nationalities, however, since the beginning of 2011, as a result of the integration of public service media, there has been a single editorial office. The central budget provides funding for publishing the newspapers of nationalities in their own respective languages.

(1) The comprehensive regulation of the media, implemented in the reporting period, also affected the nationalities' right of access to media in their native languages, in several aspects. Act LXXXII of 2010 on the Amendment of Certain Acts on Media and Telecommunications entered into force on 10 August 2010, establishing the National Media and Infocommunications Authority. Pursuant to this law, the Media Council of the National Media and Infocommunications Authority (hereinafter: the Media Council) became the successor of

the National Radio and Television Commission. Act CLXXXV of 2010 on Media Services and Mass Communication (hereinafter: the Media Act), which contains the most important elements of the legal regulation applicable to broadcasting for the nationalities by the public service media, entered into force on 1 January 2011. According to the Media Act and the Nationality Act, the public service broadcasting organisation is obliged to contribute to the fostering of the culture and native languages of nationalities in Hungary and to providing information in their native languages regularly. The public service Hungarian Radio and the Hungarian Television had already developed the programme structures in the languages of all nationalities before the entry into force of the Framework Convention. At the beginning of 2011, in accordance with the new Media Act, the Media Service Support and Asset Management Fund (hereinafter: MTVA) took over the assets of public service media and a significant part of their human resources. The programme producers, including the editorial staff belonging to the nationalities, also became the employees of MTVA. The situation of the nationalities' media in the reporting period is described below on the basis of the summary by MTVA.

(2) The broadcasting of programmes for nationalities on the *Hungarian Television* started more than 30 years ago. The German programme and the Serbo-Croatian programme started in 1978 (in Pécs) (now there are separate Serbian, Croatian and Slovenian programmes); later, a Romanian programme and a Slovak programme started in Szeged, and then, in 1992, Roma programmes were also introduced. The programme "*Rondó*" for the Bulgarian, Greek, Polish, Armenian, Rusyn and Ukrainian nationalities started in 1994. The public service television produces programmes for the whole of society; therefore, its tasks include the strengthening of social tolerance and cohesion and enabling communication between the different communities. In this spirit, channel M1 broadcasts magazine programmes in the early afternoon from Monday to Thursday, in 25-26 minutes per day on average. The programmes provide an insight into the everyday lives of the people of the nationality concerned, present their diverse culture, history, current news and events, according to the following, currently valid structure:

- Monday: *Roma magazine* programme and *Domovina* (Slovak)
- Tuesday: *Sprski Ekran* (Serbian) and *Unser Bildschirm* (German)
- Wednesday: *Hrvatska kronika* (Croatian) and *Ecranul Nostru* (Romanian)
- Thursday, alternating fortnightly, based on the following:
Rondó (52 minutes) (Bulgarian, Greek, Polish, Armenian, Rusyn, Ukrainian); *Slovenski Utriniki* (Slovenian) and *Kvartett* (the magazine programme of the public service televisions of the Visegrad Group); *Rondó* (26 minutes) and *Alpok-Adria* (the joint magazine programme of the Bavarian, Croatian, Slovenian, Italian and Hungarian televisions); and *Slovenski Utrinki* and *Kvartett; Rondó* (52 minutes).
- Friday, alternating fortnightly, based on the following: P'amende and Életkerék.

The programmes are produced as magazine-type programmes; however, longer or more significant productions (JELEN/LÉT Theatrical Festival of the Nationalities, Roma State Hungaricum, Zorba on Margitsziget etc.), portraits or documentaries are also broadcast occasionally.

As for the previous structure, occasionally in the first half of the reporting period, in addition to the regular magazine programmes, other programmes with topics relating to nationalities were also included in the programme structure of the Hungarian Television – for example the programme "*Együtt*" (Together), discontinued in 2011, which was considered a loss by the nationalities. In 2010 and 2011 the editorial team of the nationalities was given the opportunity to produce additional programmes. One such programme was "*Pillér*", which was included in the programme structure as starting from 4 p.m. or 5 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, and it

discussed topics affecting every nationality (education, language, census, holidays etc.) every week within the framework of studio discussion, and at the same time it proved to be useful and interesting for viewers from the majority as well. The music programme "*ÖSSZHANG*" (Harmony) was produced as a gap-filling programme with a casual tone, and it was meant to present the musical culture of the Carpathian Basin, at first in 25 minutes a day, then in 50 minutes a week. The programme became popular not only with young people but also among artists and bands. The separate programme of the Roma community was available to viewers in 26 minutes every Friday under the title "*P'amende*" in 2011 and 2012, and since 2012 it has been alternating fortnightly with the programme entitled "*Életkerék*" (produced externally), which also presents Roma culture.

(3) The programmes of nationalities were usually broadcast in the noon programme period on channel 1 of the Hungarian Television, as early as in 2009. Previously, viewers could watch replays on channel 2 of the Hungarian Television, in the early morning hours. When MTVA was established, that is, when the public media were merged, replays were moved to Duna Television where, in 2011, they were broadcast at a favourable time, at 11 a.m. on the day following the programme, but in 2012, they were moved to the morning prime time, with a 6:30 a.m. start. If a programme starts at noon, it starts at a priority time, because of the midday news programme; therefore, we can say that the viewership of the programmes is not bad: this is confirmed by the Research Report of MTVA that analyses the daily viewership as well as by the feedback from both the nationalities and the majority. From 2012, replays can be watched on Duna Television. The time of replays was changed on several occasions during 2013, which is a little confusing for the viewers, although of course in this era of modern technology, a lot of people watch television online. This also increases the number of viewers, since programmes dating back to approximately two years can be watched in the online video archives of the Hungarian Television.

(4) The communities of nationalities and, accordingly, the programmes of the Hungarian Television lay great emphasis on fostering the nationalities' native languages, which is reflected in the programmes where reports in the languages of the nationalities are produced with Hungarian subtitles. If in a given case the report is produced in a language other than Hungarian or a nationality language, MTVA dubs it in the nationality language (and provides it with Hungarian subtitles) or rarely it provides Hungarian voice-over. On the radio, where appropriate, reports in Hungarian are dubbed using voice-over in the nationality's language. The staff of the Chief Editorial Office of Nationalities within MTVA/Hungarian Television have close connections with nationalities and speak the relevant languages, which is indispensable to communication with the communities and the production of programmes. In the case of certain programmes – for example the nationalities' magazine "*Rondó*" which encompasses several nationalities – there is no native speaker within the editorial staff for every field, therefore, they cooperate with the self-governments and communities of the nationalities and involve external colleagues in the programme production work.

Although the number of editorial employees was reduced in the field of television programme production in 2011, when the public media broadcasters were merged, concurrently with this merger, the journalists who used to work only in the radio were also transferred to these programmes. One of the purposes of the merger was rationalisation, to ensure that the employees work in both fields (TV and radio). In practice, this means that a former radio programme editor goes to a shooting, makes the interview (if necessary, for the radio as well), the cameraman records the scenes and sends the material to the former television editor for montaging. Of course, radio editors also make shorter or longer television materials and TV

editors have also learned how to produce radio programmes. In addition, there are some overlapping areas within the various topics, when both a television programme and a radio programme are prepared of the same event.

(5) The radio station of the *Hungarian Radio* dedicated to nationalities – almost uniquely in Europe – addresses, informs and entertains every established nationality in their own native language, and mediates and creates values. The *station of nationalities* conforms to the needs, topics and languages of nationalities not only in terms of how magazines process the various topics but also regarding the structure of news. The public service radio provides full national coverage for the programmes of MR4 in the *13 languages concerned, with programmes broadcast 12 hours a day*, and it can also be continuously listened to on the www.radio.hu website. In addition to news relating to the lives of nationalities and the news of their self-governments, the programmes also include the events of cultural institutions, traditional holidays, religious holidays, and the news and events of religious denominations. Both the programmes that are broadcast daily and those broadcast weekly contain thematic programmes and series that discuss the prominent persons of the given nationality as well as its works of art, tales, folk poetry and folk music. The programmes pay special attention to the news and cultural events of the mother country.

The station on the Hungarian Radio for nationalities produces 2-hour daily programmes for the Croat, German, Romanian, Serb and Slovak nationalities and 30-minute weekly programmes for the Bulgarian, Greek, Polish, Armenian, Rusyn, Slovenian and Ukrainian nationalities in their respective languages. For the Roma nationality the radio broadcasts a 60-minute programme five times a week, from Monday to Friday, entitled "*Három szólamra – cigány magazin*" (For three voices - Gypsy magazine). The Roma programmes are broadcast one hour every day on the station of nationalities, and within that, there are two 30-minute programmes twice a week, in two Roma dialects (two programmes in "*Lovari*" and two programmes in "*Boyash*"), thus there are programmes in the Gypsy language in addition to the Hungarian-language Roma programmes. One of the declared goals of the programmes in *Lovari* and *Boyash* is to stop language loss, to save these native languages and the related special culture, and to contribute to the retention of identity. Two additional programmes of the Roma nationality are "*Jelenlét*" (Presence), a Roma *public life* magazine in 26 minutes every Saturday on Kossuth Radio; and, also on Kossuth Radio, the Roma *cultural* magazine "*Jelenlét*" (Presence) in 26 minutes every Sunday.

In addition to this, a 55-minute Hungarian-language magazine programme "*Egy hazában*" (On one homeland) is broadcast weekly, on Sundays, and the programme "*Gyöngyszemek*" (*Pearls*), which can be listened to on Sundays as well, presents a selection from the literature of the nationalities in five minutes every week. The programme "*Nemzetiségek ünnepei*" (Holidays of nationalities) is broadcast at times depending on the dates of important anniversaries, and the programme "*Nemzetiségeink zenéje*" (Music from our nationalities) presents the musical culture of a different nationality every day. After the midday bell, the Hungarian Radio's station for nationalities plays the anthem of a different nationality every day.

(Further information relating to the media of the nationalities and the detailed programme structure of the Hungarian Radio can be found in Chapter III of the Country Report, in the description attached to Article 9 of the Framework Convention.)

III. DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPROVE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION

Below, progressing from article to article, further information can be found on each paragraph of the Framework Convention and the government measures aimed at the implementation of the Framework Convention in Hungary in the current reporting period, as well as the non-governmental organisations' assessments relating to the subject.

Article 1

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.

(1) Hungary's international activity affecting the nationalities takes place in several forums. The fundamental institutions of the bilateral cooperation affecting the relations of the nationalities living in Hungary with their mother countries are the joint committees of minorities operated mainly with the neighbouring countries, and, in addition to the activity of such committees, Hungary lays special emphasis on multilateral relations, including relations with international organisations. The development of Hungary's nationality policy is strongly determined by the relations mentioned in the Nationality Act: the Council of Europe's Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, the work performed under the auspices of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Copenhagen Document, the United Nations' International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the European Union.

The Nationalities Department (in the Ministry of Human Capacities), which is responsible for the affairs of nationalities in Hungary, in addition to cooperating and communicating with the mother countries of the nationalities living in Hungary, also cooperates with the institutions and areas of the EU, the Council of Europe, the UN and the OSCE relating to minority affairs, nationalities, Roma affairs, language rights, the fight against racism and to human rights. The European Union has no common nationality policy. The EU treats the activities of Member States regarding the communities of the various nationalities living in the territories of the Member States as internal affairs, thus, there are no common standards applicable to all Member States. Most of the EU Member States are signatories to the Council of Europe's documents on the protection of nationalities, therefore, we can obtain a view from the periodic reports related to the implementation of such documents of the practice of nationality policy in the different countries.

(2) The United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council, which consists of 47 member states, made a decision on the allocation of six special mandates relating to human rights on its 17th session in June 2011. At the proposal of the president of the Human Rights Council, the committee decided to appoint dr. Rita Izsák (Hungary) as the UN Independent Expert on Minority Issues. Rita Izsák used to work as the chief of staff of the Secretary of State for Social Inclusion of the Ministry of Public Administration and Justice, and played an important role in drawing up the Roma Strategy of the EU. The UN Independent Expert is responsible for all minorities of the 192 member states, that is, all national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, may initiate country visits and issue reports and press materials; this is the only mandate that has its own separate committee.

At the request of the UN Independent Expert on Minority Issues the Ministry of Human Capacities sent partial materials for the preparation of the report on the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, in June 2012. The material was part of the report of the Minority Forum dealing with the implementation of the Declaration on Minorities, of the UN session that commenced on 5 November 2012.

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.

Hungary strived to broaden the cooperation within its relations with the mother countries of the nationalities, which also serves the interests of the nationalities.

(1) The majority of the communities of nationalities in Hungary and/or their organisations maintain close relationships with their mother countries as well as the government institutions and non-governmental organisations of the mother countries, which is demonstrated by joint events and the cooperation with the cultural institutions and embassies concerned.

Some forms and some framework of cooperation have been established with almost all mother countries of the nationalities living in Hungary. The direct relationship between the communities of the nationalities living in Hungary and their respective mother nations and the requests of the nationalities in relation to this are also supported by the State Secretariat for Religious, Nationality and Civil Social Relations within the Ministry of Human Capacities, regardless of whether the nationalities contact the Ministry directly or through calls for applications. Typical examples of supported initiatives are the organisation of various summer camps (for young people or children), continued professional development for teachers and scientific agreements, exchanges, etc.

(2) Bilateral joint committees on minority issues (hereinafter JCM) have been operating for twenty years between Hungary and the governments of the mother countries of the nationalities living in the territory of Hungary. These bodies – the members of which include the representatives of the nationalities concerned, from both sides – regularly review all issues that are important to these communities, and adopt proposals for their respective governments. Complying with the proposals drawn up by the joint committees of minorities is an important task of nationality policy, national policy and diplomacy, which is related to the mother countries of the nationalities, and may be of strategic importance in terms of the Hungarian community living in the mother country.

In the case of nationalities without JCMs, although the cooperation with the relevant mother countries is narrower, it can be regarded as regular. By now, the majority of the mother countries of nationalities have become the member states of the European Union, as a result of which cooperation with them is diverse and fairly good.

Examples of the cooperation of the communities of nationalities with their mother countries are described under Article 17 of this Chapter. The work of JCMs is described in detail under Article 18.

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.**

The regulatory environment of nationality policy – including rights and obligations, and sanctions – has existed for almost 25 years in Hungary. The first stage of the regulation process was followed by amendments and the latest re-codification.

(1) The Nationality Act described above in this Country Report and adopted during the reporting period has had a lot of positive results. Below we present the most important novelties of the new regulation compared to the former regulation, comparing the two (successive) laws that were in force during the reporting period.

- Section 1 (2) of the Nationality Act provides a definition of persons who belong to a nationality, thereby making it possible to define the separate rights (and obligations) included in the Nationality Act as individual rights and obligations. This, however, had been missing from the former regulation since 1993 as it only defined the community of a nationality (Section 1 (2) of the Minority Act).
- The Nationality Act broadens the scope of national minorities' rights, ensures the right to use communal names (Article 18) – the former minority act did not use the concept of communal name use, it only regulated the rules on the use of individuals' names (Article 12).
- The definitions of the Nationality Act have been expanded (point 3 of Article 2) to include the definition of cultural autonomy of nationalities, making a basic expression that is used in nationality law a basic concept, also helping to define national minority self-government. The former minority act only used this concept in its preamble and it did not appear as a statutory provision in the text of the act.
- The Nationality Act reinforces the language rights of nationalities, relating to which Articles 5 and 6 specify the conditions – the proportion of the nationality concerned registered during a census and the initiative of the nationality – based on the fulfilment of which the local government must use the language of the nationality in local public administration (promulgation of local government ordinances, publication of announcements, signs indicating public offices, public service organizations and public spaces, media services for nationalities, provision of information in the languages of the nationalities). According to Section 95 (1), the minutes of the municipal council (general meeting) can also be taken exclusively in the language of a nationality. By contrast, pursuant to Section 30/F (1) of the Minority Act of 1993 (and until 25 June 2012, also according to Section 95 (1) of the Nationality Act) it was mandatory to take minutes in Hungarian or to take bilingual minutes. Articles 53 and 54 of the Minority Act required the "justification" of language rights, which justification was not defined clearly, meaning that the local government was allowed to use its discretionary powers in this respect.
- The Nationality Act reinforces the system of nationality self-government, expands the scope of rights of nationality self-governments to maintain institutions (the conditions

of operating the network of institutions of nationalities), and protects the property of nationalities. The nationalities may take over nationality institutions from both the government and the local government, irrespective of the catchment area served by the institution. The Minister of Education may also authorise the transfer of bilingual schools and language teaching institutions (Article 25). A cultural institution may also be transferred in cases where at least 75% of the activities of the institution are focused on performing nationality-related tasks (Article 37). In the event of transfer of the right to maintain an institution, the movable assets and the real property relating to the institution's tasks may become the property of the national minority self-government that takes over the institution (Section 125 (5) of the Nationality Act). The property of a dissolved local nationality self-government is temporarily managed by the national minority self-government, and if no new local nationality self-government is set up, the national minority self-government will ensure, as the owner, that the property is used for the purposes of the nationality (from 27 June 2012: Section 138 (2) and Article 167 of the Nationality Act).

(2) Hungary's nationality policy sets out goals in the interest of the preservation, growth and development of the nationalities living in Hungary, because, as mentioned in the Fundamental Law, the nationalities living with us form part of the Hungarian political community and are constituent parts of the State. For this reason, the rise of Hungary and its social and political development may only be realised with the involvement of the nationalities, and their communities and representations. The Nationality Policy Strategy which is under preparation during the drafting of the report sets the direction that the Government will follow in the six years following the drawing up of the Strategy as regards cooperation with the nationalities, the development of the cultural autonomy of nationalities and the consummation of nationality rights.

The draft document creates a system and a structure for the nationality policy of the Hungarian State. It serves as a guideline and sets tasks for Hungarian politicians and governmental actors in relation to the development of nationality policy, and it also formulates the State's expectations relating to the nationalities. It summarises the objectives and tasks for every actor of this area. The ideas and targets serving the purpose of growth and development of the nationalities and the achievement whereof is promoted by the Hungarian State using its own means were specified during consultations based on strategic partnership with the legitimate national minority self-governments. The nationality policy strategy was created in a stage of governing when, based on the principles of the Fundamental Law, the Nationality Act was adopted, the laws determining the representation of nationalities in the period after 2014 were created, and the data regarding nationalities gathered in the 2011 census were published. The draft of the strategy was prepared regarding all of the above-mentioned documents and data.

(3) As for expanding the scope of the 13 recognized nationalities, pursuant to Article 148 of the Nationality Act, if a nationality other than the 13 nationalities acknowledged by the Act as ethnic groups native to Hungary wishes to verify that they meet the relevant conditions, minimum one thousand electors declaring to form part of that nationality may initiate that the nationality be declared an ethnic group native to Hungary. The procedure shall be governed by the provisions applicable to people's initiatives. In the course of its procedure, the National Election Committee shall seek the position of the President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences with respect to the fulfilment of the statutory conditions. No repeated application may be submitted within one year of the date when the decision on rejection is made by the National Assembly.

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.**

Details have been given in respect of all legal and institutional changes affecting the prohibition of discrimination, the governmental measures serving the purpose of combating discrimination and intolerance, and the issues relating to equal treatment in Chapter I of the Country Report, where the measures taken in relation to the recommendations included in the Opinion of the Advisory Committee in connection with this Article were described. We would also like to add to this the following information:

(1) The Equal Treatment Authority (ETA) is a general body serving the purpose of anti-discrimination, which, based on the Equal Treatment Act, performs the following among other things:

- it conducts investigations upon request or, in certain cases, ex officio in order to establish whether the requirement of equal treatment has been violated; it conducts investigations upon request in order to find out if equal opportunities plans have been adopted by the employers that are obliged to do so; and it makes decisions based on these investigations;
- it may initiate proceedings exercising its right to initiate an *actio popularis* in order to protect the rights of persons and groups whose rights have been violated;
- it comments on draft legislation and the drafts of normative decisions, normative orders and reports concerning equal treatment;
- it makes proposals for governmental decisions and legal regulations affecting equal treatment;
- it regularly informs the general public and the National Assembly of the situation of the enforcement of equal treatment;
- during the performance of its tasks it cooperates with non-governmental organisations and interest advocacy organisations as well as the government agencies concerned;
- it continuously provides information and assistance to those concerned to enable them to act in the event of the violation of equal treatment;
- it participates in the preparation of governmental reports prepared for international organisations, in particular, the Council of Europe, relating to the requirement of equal treatment;
- it participates in the preparation of reports on the harmonisation of the directives on equal treatment for the Commission of the European Union.

The Authority regularly publishes its reports, recommendations and detailed information on its operation on its website, in order to provide continuous information to the general public.

Based on the above, pursuant to Section 8 e) of Act CXXV of 2003 on Equal Treatment and the Promotion of Equal Opportunities the Authority may examine – upon request and in certain cases ex officio – whether the requirement of equal treatment has been complied with in relation to the nationalities living in Hungary by those obligated to do so. From among the nationalities living in Hungary, the majority of the complaints (95%) are submitted to the Authority by people of Roma nationality or non-governmental organisations representing the Roma. Very few complaints were submitted by people belonging to other nationalities (Ukrainians, Slovaks, Armenians). The applications tend to designate two areas where, according to the complainants, they were discriminated in employment – including access to employment, the establishment of employment relationship and the termination of employment – on the one hand, and the movement of goods and the use of services on the other hand. The activity of the ETA in the past period is summarised in the table below:

<p>Total number of complaints in Roma-related issues in 2009: 104</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of violations of law established: 3 • Number of settlements: 6 • Proceedings launched ex officio: 3 • Rejection by decision: 16; in the rest of the cases the client either did not request a procedure, or the client requested information on where his or her case belonged, which authority or court had jurisdiction over it. • The number of requests received from other nationalities was 8 in 2009, and no proceedings were launched in any of these cases. 	<p>Total number of complaints in Roma-related issues in 2010: 128</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of violations of law established: 6 • Number of settlements: 6 • Proceedings launched ex officio: 1 • Rejection by decision: 17; in the rest of the cases the client either requested information, or another authority or court had jurisdiction to proceed in the case. • In 2010, the number of requests from other nationalities was 5, of which proceedings were launched in 4 cases, and in three cases the proceedings were dismissed, and in one case the Authority rejected the application.
<p>Total number of complaints in Roma-related issues in 2011: 118</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of violations of law established: 6 • Number of settlements: 3 • Proceedings launched ex officio: 0 • Rejection by decision: 13; in the rest of the cases the client either requested information, or the case fell within the jurisdiction of another authority or court. • In 2011, the total number of complaints received from other nationalities was 6; in one case the decision declared the fact that the law was violated, in another case the decision rejected the request, and in the rest of the cases the proceeding was dismissed. 	<p>Total number of complaints in Roma-related issues in 2012: 81</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of violations of law established: 4 • Number of settlements: 4 • Rejection: 17 • Proceedings launched ex officio: 1 • Rejection by decision: 11; in the rest of the cases the client either asked for information without requesting the proceeding of the court, or the case fell within the jurisdiction of another authority or court. • In 2012, 8 complaints were submitted by other nationalities: in 2 cases the Authority rejected the request, whilst in the rest of the cases it dismissed the proceeding.

In 2013 (until 31 October inclusive), 58 requests were received from Roma persons.

- Including the cases carried over from the previous year, the Authority established that the law was violated in 3 cases,
- it rejected the complaint in 24 cases,
- the parties reached a settlement in 3 cases, and the Authority terminated the procedure by an order in 28 cases.
- A total number of 3 requests were received from other nationalities: in one case the Authority rejected the request, and in two cases it terminated the procedure by an order.

Source: Ministry of Human Capacities, based on information provided by the Equal Treatment Authority

(2) The series which was launched in 2010 within the framework of SoROP-5.5.5. programme mentioned in Chapter I and which was planned to include more than 70 training courses consists of 30-hour accredited training courses that are based on the curriculum developed by the Authority's law enforcement staff. On the one hand, the training courses are attended by those who are also involved because they have some kind of protected characteristics – e.g. they have been discriminated in connection with their Roma origin –, and on the other hand those who meet such persons in connection with their work or another situation – e.g. teachers, public sector employees, social workers and the employees of nationality self-governments. In 2012 the Authority held 31 accredited legal and sensitivity training courses all over the country, with 15-25 participants per training course. In 2013, until 7 November inclusive, we held three-day training courses on ten occasions: one was held in Budapest and the rest in the country; the number of participants was 207.

In addition, the SoROP programme also provided an opportunity for conducting research. Since, based on experience from the submitted complaints, discrimination occurred the most often on the labour market, four research projects explored the issues relating to work, focusing on the Roma among others. The ETA performed a national survey on the experience of the Roma in relation to discrimination, by filling in questionnaires in person. The survey represented the Roma society, the guarantee of which was the model of the survey prepared by Ipsos in 2010.

It was also the SoROP-5.5.5. programme that provided an opportunity for the Authority's employees and the experts invited by them to provide information by means of holding one-day workshops (in Budapest and in the country), for those attending, on how the authority applies the law, its latest results and good practices. The workshops were attended by the representatives of non-governmental organisations and interest advocacy organisations, local governments and nationality self-governments, employees of educational institutions, equal opportunities experts and social workers, among others. In 2013, there were three one-day workshops held at locations in the country, with 100 participants each on average, and there were two events held in order to exchange experience, with 40 people invited to and attending both events.

(3) The protection of national minorities, the fight against discrimination and the elimination of intolerance in penal institutions can be approached both in respect of detainees and the staff. Penal institutions, complying with the Hungarian and international requirements, do not collect, store or use in any other manner any personal data relating to people's origin, race, nationality or ethnicity. Accordingly, penal institutions do not keep any registers of the nationality of detainees; however, for detainees who explicitly declare themselves to be of a certain nationality, on the initiative of such detainees, the penal institutions provide the opportunity of

contacting non-governmental/charity/religious organisations, which is facilitated within the framework of local or central cooperation agreements.

According to Article 5 of Act CVII of 1995 on Penal Institutions, the National Prison Service Headquarters cooperates with the state bodies, associations, churches, foundations and persons that participate in the enforcement of punishments and sanctions and that support enforcement, as well as with the international organisations concerned. Pursuant to Article 5 of Decree 6/1996 (of 12.07.) of the Minister of Justice on the Execution of Imprisonment and Pre-Trial Detention, prison missions, churches, non-governmental organisations, foundations and persons assisting in the performance of penal duties perform their activities within the framework of the applicable laws and the cooperation agreement entered into with the penal institution.

The number of central cooperation agreements concluded under the supervision of the National Prison Service Headquarters is currently 36, whilst the number of local documents concluded by the penal institutions exceeded 250 in 2013. The cooperation with *Roma Educational and Cultural Centre, Budapest* (the main objective of which would have been the organisation of inclusion programmes and the facilitation of social integration after discharge from prison for multiple disadvantaged detainees in penal institutions who declare themselves to be of Roma nationality) failed for reasons beyond the penal institution. When organising cultural programmes, penal institutions must respect and take into account the nationalities of detainees who explicitly declare themselves to be of a specific nationality. To this end, various cultural (music, literature, religious and other) programmes were arranged, for example a Roma prayer meeting was organised in connection with the international day of Gypsy culture in the Central Transdanubia National Penal Institution in 2012. A programme entitled "Religious Prayer Meeting for the European Roma" was organised in the Central Transdanubia National Penal Institution in 2013; it was conducted successfully, at an outstanding standard, similarly to the previous years. Each institution has study circles for the preservation of traditions, as well as theatrical groups and choirs that willingly perform in other penal institutions and at external locations.

There is an information booklet translated into approximately 20 languages, which is available to foreigners who do not speak Hungarian, including detainees belonging to the recognized nationalities, and which contains basic information on detention. As a result of the fact that there are detainees of various nationalities and with various mother tongues, there is constant need for further translations.

(4) The Gypsies in Hungary made unprecedented progress in the last three and a half years. EU funds were used for launching development programmes to promote the employment of Roma women, to terminate Roma settlements and to facilitate the integration of the Roma into the labour market; the network of Roma special colleges keeps expanding. The National Roma Self-Government started to develop a complex network of educational institutions in 2012. The takeover of schools is closely related to the creation of a Roma career model which ensures the uninterrupted and successful completion of education from kindergarten through secondary school up to the ultimate goal, access to tertiary education. Primary schools and vocational schools have been taken over in Szolnok, Tiszapüspöki and Szirák, and the former and the newly founded cultural institutions (*the Network of Cultural and Employment Methodology Institutions, the National Roma Museum Collection and Gallery, the Library, the Archives and Document Library, the Cultural and Media Centre, the Roma Mission, the National Roma Pedagogical Service Institution and the Roma Sports Centre*) all operate well and show great promise. The duties of the *Foundation of the Education and Extension Training Centre* earlier

established by the Roma community largely coincide with the duties of the National Roma Pedagogical Service Institution that is in the phase of development; therefore, the intensive renovation, investment and development aids of the former will also definitely facilitate the activities of the latter.

(5) The cooperation of the National Directorate General for Disaster Management with the Roma nationality can be considered a good practice. Disaster management contributes to the training and employment of young people of Roma origin and multiple disadvantaged young people. In 2012 the National Directorate General for Disaster Management of the Ministry of Interior and the National Roma Self-Government signed a cooperation agreement to facilitate the performance of the tasks prescribed for the professional disaster management body, to reduce inequalities and to increase equal opportunities for disadvantaged students. The regional and local bodies of disaster management regularly hold informative sessions with the Roma self-governments that operate in the territories of the bodies concerned, on community service, on the volunteer rescue organisations operating in the capital and the county in question, on the fire fighting and technical rescue activities, the possible effects of any losses that may occur and the rules of conduct to be complied with at the site of the intervention.

Disaster management pays special attention to effective and efficient performance of career guidance and orientation tasks, and organises career guidance for the Roma students of secondary educational institutions. If required, informative sessions are held for the teachers and students of primary and secondary schools supervised by Roma self-governments within the framework of the action plan on the preparation of children and young people, drawn up by the Civil Protection Inspectorate of the National Directorate General for Disaster Management of the Ministry of Interior. Since 2012, the National Directorate General for Disaster Management of the Ministry of Interior has been operating a support system to ensure that young people of Roma origin – admitted as full-time or distance-learning students in the Institute of Disaster Management of the National University of Public Service and participating in the uniform modular law enforcement training of the Disaster Management Training Centre – can successfully complete their studies. Calls for applications are announced on an ongoing basis.

The regional and local bodies of disaster management continuously improve their relations with the National Roma Self-Government and other Roma non-governmental organisations. Roma young people are provided extensive information on the duties of professional disaster management bodies, the conditions of applying for jobs to disaster management bodies and the possibilities of promotion, in the form of leaflets; open days are also held to introduce disaster management bodies. The professional disaster management body feels responsible for improving the employment of Roma young people, in particular those starting their careers. To this end, during recruitment processes, it gives preference to applicants of Roma origin who have been qualified as suitable and also to young graduates starting their careers – provided they are appropriately qualified –, and later it provides assistance with integration for the selected applicants.

(6) The *Roma Coordination Council* established by Government Decision 1102/2011 (of 15.04.) is an advisory and consultation body, giving opinions and making recommendations. In order to facilitate the effective inclusion of the Gypsy population, it provides a forum for dialogue and cooperation and for the purpose of communicating information on the interests of the groups affected by Inclusion Policy to the Government. The Council's duty is to call attention to all the problems that complicate the implementation of measures supporting the

inclusion of Gypsies. It expresses its opinion on proposals for regulations and measures relating to the social integration of the Gypsy population living in poverty and social exclusion as well as on Hungarian and international reports, guides and information materials. It drafts recommendations in connection with the measures aimed at improving the living conditions, social situation and social inclusion of the Gypsies, it makes proposals regarding the results and objectives to be achieved and the solution methods and the actual measures to be taken. It participates in evaluating the impact of tasks related to the improvement of the social situation of the Gypsies and the promotion of their social integration. It contributes to the creation and development of professional networks that facilitate inclusion. (This is the forum for keeping in contact with the civil society.)

The *Inter-Ministerial Committee for Social Inclusion and Roma Affairs*, set up by Government Decision 1199/2010 (of 29.09.), also plays an important role in this field. The aim of this governmental inter-ministerial body is to improve the living conditions and social situation of the Gypsies and people living in extreme poverty and to coordinate the governmental activity aimed at promoting these persons' social integration. The surest way out from poverty and exclusion is employment; therefore, one of the most important priorities of the National Social Inclusion Strategy is to facilitate the integration of the most disadvantaged groups into the labour market.

The Nationality Act has been expanded compared to the previous act adopted in 1993: Among others, *basic social services*, *local public employment programmes* and *social inclusion* were added to the list of the rights of nationality self-governments. The foundation of inclusion at the level of local Roma communities is laid within the framework of local equal opportunities programmes, prepared by those – with the help of experts – who are the closest to the local problems. The local Roma representatives are prepared within the framework of a separate programme so that they can become active participants in the programmes.

(7) The Government adopted the National Social Inclusion Strategy (hereinafter: the Inclusion Strategy) and the governmental action plan for its implementation in 2012-2014 by Government Decision 1430/2011 (of 13.12.). The Framework Agreement (Government Decision 1338/2011 (of 14.10.)) concluded by the Government and the National Roma Self-Government in May 2011 is an integral part of the Inclusion Strategy. Complex approach is a key element of the National Social Inclusion Strategy. Areas of intervention: Tasks relating to child welfare, education, employment, training, health care, housing, awareness raising and the improvement of public safety. Approximately HUF 200 billion in the form of EU and Hungarian funds have contributed to the achievement of the strategic purposes of social inclusion, that is, the integration of the poor and the Roma and the improvement of children's opportunities in the above mentioned areas of intervention in the 3-year cycle beginning in 2012.

The most important programmes of this type have been launched in the field of child poverty, education, employment and the termination of segregated living conditions (estate programmes). This is the first time that real emphasis is laid on measuring the success of inclusion, through the Inclusion Strategy. The framework of the Strategy's monitoring system has been developed. In accordance with the targets of the document, a system of indicators has been developed for monitoring the changes of the social environment, as part of monitoring the Strategy, with the participation of TÁRKI. The indicator system is the basis but not the only component of the system to be continuously built for monitoring the Strategy. The programme monitoring system is under development, with the participation of KPMG, for monitoring the

actual programmes and measures included in the action plan and for assessing their progress. In accordance with the Government Decision, a report is prepared for the Government on the implementation of the Inclusion Strategy, with the help of these monitoring tools, by 15 May every year.

(8) The Inclusion Strategy has already been summarized in Chapter II; below, we will also discuss the different inclusion programmes in detail, in relation to the present Article.

The message of *programmes relating to the area of child welfare* is that in greatest need are those living and growing up in the most deplorable conditions. About half of the children living in poverty are Roma. A priority task in social inclusion is to interrupt the processes that involve the passing on of poverty to the next generation, to improve the chances of disadvantaged and multiple disadvantaged children living in poverty and privation to continue their studies and start their own lives independently, thereby laying the foundation of their future positions on the labour market. The approach of the Inclusion Strategy follows the principle of "course of life" and deems it necessary to create a chain of support wherein every chain-link belongs to a different age group. The chain of support must start in the earliest possible age – from cradle to university.

- The purpose of *Sure Start Children's Homes* is to create opportunities for disadvantaged children and their parents, at an early age, in disadvantaged geographical areas. Since 2012, the central budget has contributed to the operation of Children's Homes established using EU funds and maintained by local governments, which is a breakthrough with regard to the fact that they could continue to operate. Pursuant to Decree 13/2012 (of 13.08.) of the Ministry of Human Capacities on the Details of Using the Grant, HUF 188 million was granted to 41 Children's Homes. In 2012, the regulation of Children's Homes was also inserted in the Child Protection Act, among the provisions on basic child welfare services, thus they are able to continue their activities as a Hungarian service. The budget for the year 2013 included HUF 293 million available to local governments maintaining Children's Homes, based on Decree 19/2013 (of 05.03.) of the Ministry of Human Capacities. Operational support was requested in respect of 43 Children's Homes and this increased by 4 Children's Homes in 2014. Until the first half of 2013 Sure Start Children's Homes were visited by 6,266 children and their parents.
- The purpose of *"Integrated regional programmes to increase the inclusion opportunities of children and their families"* (SoROP 5.2.3) is to support early intervention, to launch the Sure Start Children's Homes, to operate community service centres in the segregated areas, to prepare health care, community and recreational programme elements and programme elements facilitating inclusion in school, and to prepare a regional strategy on children and young people for at least ten years as well as a related action plan and resources map in the most disadvantaged micro-regions. The total EU support is HUF 13.21 billion: in 2009: HUF 2.6 billion, in 2011: HUF 3.4 billion, in 2012: HUF 7.21 billion. Based on the first round of the call for applications (2009), the integrated regional Children's Opportunities programme was launched in five micro-regions, and based on the second round of the call for applications the programme was launched in six additional regions in 2011. In the third round, in January 2012, the programme was advertised for another 15 particularly disadvantaged regions. About 20,000 children and young people will be supported in this manner between 2012 and 2015.

As regards *the programmes relating to education*, this is the first time in the history of Hungarian public education that the culture of nationalities (including the culture of

Gypsies/Roma) and the possibilities and problems of living together are featured in the National Core Curriculum in detail.

- The purpose of the Integrated Pedagogical System (IPS), which became effective concurrently with the transformation of the public education system, is to involve children in kindergarten education, "hand them over" to the school and make the school an inclusive place. To this end, the IPS provides the institutions' operators and teachers with incentives. In terms of the number of participating institutions, students, children and teachers, and the allocated financial resources, the IPS is one of the largest educational programmes within the public education system serving the aim of supporting social inclusion. In the 2012/2013 academic year 1,848 public educational institutions participated in the programme, with 75,779 students and 25,260 kindergarteners. The Klebelsberg Institution Maintenance Centre was established on 1 January 2013, and different types of IPS regulations entered into force regarding state and non-state kindergartens and educational institutions.
- The purpose of *Útravaló–MACIKA scholarship programme* is to improve the opportunities of disadvantaged (mainly Roma) students to study and get into tertiary education and to support the talent management of students interested in natural sciences. This programme has four sub-programmes: the *Road to Secondary School*, *Road to the Secondary School-leaving Examination*, *Road to Vocation* and *Road to Tertiary Education* scholarship and tuition support programmes. The funds available for the scholarship programme were HUF 1.687 billion in the 2011/2012 academic year, HUF 1.89 billion in the 2012/2013 academic year and HUF 2.202 billion in the 2013/2014 academic year. In the 2012/2013 academic year altogether 17,303 continuing and newly entering students participated in the sub-programmes Road to Vocation, Road to Secondary School and Road to the Secondary School-leaving Examination, of which 4,888 new entrants declared themselves to be of Roma origin.

"Útravaló–MACIKA" scholarship programme in the 2012/13 academic year

Sub-programme	Number of continuing students	Number of new entrants	Number of new Roma entrants	Proportion of Roma students (based on their declaration)
Road to Secondary School	3476	4189	2775	66%
Road to the Secondary School-leaving Examination	4163	2021	1088	54%
Road to Vocation	1726	1728	1025	59%
Total	9365	7938	4888	62%

Source: Ministry of Human Capacities

- The purpose of the scheme "*Supporting the development of public educational institutions based on equal opportunities*" (SoROP 3.3.8) is to enable public educational institutions to successfully educate and teach multiple disadvantaged children/students (including Roma children) and to contribute to their success in school. The programme supports the reform of the pedagogical methods of the institutions, the reinforcement of the relations of schools with parents and professional partners, and, in the case of kindergartens, the increase of the number of employees who directly support the pedagogical work and, in the case of schools, career guidance activities. This scheme offers an opportunity to improve exemplary programmes that promote the academic success of multiple disadvantaged students and to make these programmes suitable for adaptation in other institutions on the one hand, and on the other hand to adapt tried and tested programmes. Resource: HUF 4 bln
- The purpose of the scheme "*Supporting measures for preventing the drop-out of multiple disadvantaged students*" (SoROP 3.3.9) is to support the inclusion of destitute students living in bad social conditions within the framework of after-school-type programmes, through personalised extracurricular activities. The purpose of Second Chance-type programmes is to reintegrate multiple disadvantaged young people (including Roma) over the compulsory school age who abandoned, dropped out of or were expelled from secondary school into the secondary school system and to help them to pass the secondary school-leaving examination and acquire marketable skills. Resource: HUF 4.0 billion.
- The programme "*Supporting disadvantaged secondary school students to access tertiary education*" (SoROP 3.3.10) aims at keeping disadvantaged and multiple disadvantaged young people studying in secondary public educational institutions in the public education system and supporting their successful education in order to enable them to access tertiary education, in the convergence regions and the disadvantaged and most disadvantaged micro-regions. Resource: HUF 2.5 billion in convergence regions and HUF 1.5 billion in the disadvantaged and the most disadvantaged region.
- The *Roma Special Colleges* are aimed at the inclusion of the Hungarian Roma and at training Roma intellectuals who are able to build the future. A key criterion in the inclusion of the Hungarian Roma is the creation of a Gypsy intelligentsia building the future, and for this reason the Ministry of Human Capacities supported the establishment and operation of Christian Special Colleges for the Roma. 110 students were supported within the framework of talent management in the *Network of Christian Special Colleges for the Roma* in 2012. Additional Roma special colleges were able to start to operate in 2013, within the framework of a call for applications co-financed by the European Union, with a budget of more than HUF 1 billion. Resource: HUF 120 million from Hungarian funds and HUF 1.15 billion from SoROP 4.1.1/D. For the 2011/2012 academic year, the State Secretariat for Social Inclusion provided the operators of the special colleges a one-time support of a total amount of HUF 110 million for the purpose of establishment and operation, and the payment of scholarships to students.
- The primary purpose of the programme "*Ifjusag.hu*" – *for a successful generation – Comprehensive development of youth services for enhancing equal opportunities of students in public education*" (SoROP 3.3.12) is to promote the academic success of students and young people between 12 and 20 years of age participating in school-based education, to promote their career planning process, social integration and their preparation

for entry into the labour market, by creating a uniform and comprehensive service system that meets the requirements of young people. Resource: HUF 3 bln

- The purpose of the programme "*Establishing a new strategy for physical education and a new system for measuring physical condition, and encouraging voluntary participation in the organisation of complex physical education programmes in school*" (SoROP 3.1.13 B) within the key project is to improve the skills of teachers and sports professionals working in the field of physical education and sport, in order to strengthen voluntarism and active citizenship. The participants acquire competences and attitudes serving the purpose of social inclusion through sports, by means of mapping and expanding formal and informal knowledge, in relation to the organisation and implementation of exercise programmes involving voluntary participation and encouraging voluntary activities. The component focuses on the disadvantaged regions in the first step. Resource: HUF 2.2 bln
- The programme "*Development of domestic and international twin school relations*" (SoROP 3.3.14) contributes to the development of children's (social, life style, communication etc.) competence and the expansion of their knowledge by creating national, cross-border and international twin school relationships and implementing joint programmes. The programme enables to create relationships between institutions under which they are able to share their experience and good practices in different educational areas, e.g. in all-day school education activities related to the education of disadvantaged children.

Regarding *programmes relating to employment and training*, the social land programme, which is unique in European social policy, has been transformed and is interlinked with public employment.

- The *social land programme* resulted in measurable effects by spreading work culture and activating the participants, thereby enabling them to enter the labour market and develop income-generating abilities. The financial security of disadvantaged and undereducated job seekers (the majority of them Roma) who are entitled to get wage supplement benefits and live in the town concerned keeps improving, as well as their ability to support themselves. The social inclusion of disadvantaged people, including those of Roma origin, has intensified. The level of social care needed by the supported families has been decreasing and their need to be self-sufficient has increased. Resource: HUF 300 million in 2011; HUF 170.5 million in 2012, HUF 600 million public employment budget; HUF 250 million in 2013, HUF 500 million public employment budget.
- *Public employment* itself is not an end but a means in the path leading to the target of long-term employment, self-sufficiency and becoming self-supporting. The Government provided an opportunity to work for a total number of almost 80,000 Roma job seekers in 2011, within the framework of national public employment. The proportion of the Roma in public employment was on average 31.3% of the total number of those in public employment, but based on the data of certain employment offices the employment ratio of the Roma exceeded 50%, and in some cases 80%. The estimated number of Roma involved in public employment was 54,769 in 2012.

The Ministry of Interior attached significant public employment programmes to the social land programme, the data of which are as follows:

- The quota specified in the decision of the Minister of Interior: 1,590 (2011), 622 (2012) and 773 (2013)
- the budget for payments made on these grounds: HUF 382,418,000 (2011), HUF 384,992,498 (2012) and HUF 608,079,135 (2013)

- The purpose of the scheme "*Motivational trainings and support services with the aim of enhancing the labour market chances of the most disadvantaged groups*" (SoROP 5.3.8/B) is to prepare and implement motivational development trainings and support services with the aim of enhancing the labour market chances of disadvantaged groups. Resource: HUF 7.31 bln
- The purpose of the scheme "*Developing life style competences of the most disadvantaged groups*" (SoROP 5.3.10) is to improve the conditions of people living in disadvantaged settlements; to develop their abilities to support themselves, to develop their self-awareness, reduce the rate and impacts of exclusion, combat ethnic and social segregation and to promote the labour market integration of multiple disadvantaged groups. Resource: HUF 3.3 bln
- The key project *Methodological support of Roma inclusion* (StROP 2.2.15) serves the aim of helping the National Roma Self-Government as umbrella organization in providing Roma minority self-governments with adequate professional, methodological, administrative basis and monitoring system in order to ensure their successful and efficient participation in social inclusion programmes. Resource: HUF 1 bln

Housing related programs are complex programmes targeted at ceasing segregated situations in life. The complexity of the programmes derives from constant presence that can produce results by the improvement of social, community-development, educational, health-care, training, employment and housing conditions.

- The *Model programme for those living in segregated residential environments* is targeted at improving the condition of those living in a segregated residential environment. Resource: HUF 410 M, from national budgetary resources.
- Number of persons integrated in the *Complex colony-type settlement programme* (SoROP 5.3.6.-11/1): 1751. Number of persons attending trainings within the programme: 974; number of persons participating in employment: 104; number of persons joining other programmes as an after-effect of the programme: 384. The secondary, sensitivity, spill-over impact can apply to altogether 3400 persons. Resource: HUF 4.68 bln, which the Government increased by over HUF 1 bln.
- The aim of the scheme *Support of housing investments* (SIOP 3.2.3.A13/1) is, closely related to the *Complex colony-type settlement programme*, to help the applications winning in the latter programme to implement housing investments. Resource: HUF 2.58 bln

The *programmes related to inclusion and awareness raising* and the other interconnected schemes were as follows:

- The direct objective of the tender *Support of Roma culture* is to care for and develop the Roma language, maintain and propagate traditions to the younger generations, get acquainted with the cultural heritage and past of the Roma minority (music, fine arts, dance, film, applied arts and other art forms), promote the mutual acceptance of people with different cultural backgrounds through the implementation of Roma fine arts, literature and cultural events. Resource: HUF 25.9 M in 2012, HUF 50 M budget in 2013.
- For the sake of the *local implementation of social inclusion policy* a new system was developed in 2012 for preparing local equal opportunity programmes (LEOP). According to the new regulation, local governments can, starting from 1 July 2013, receive funding from

public finance sub-systems, from European Union resources or funding from other programmes financed by international agreement and awarded by individual decision or by tender only if they have a legally effective equal opportunity programme complying with the statutory provisions. Türr István Training and Research Institute (hereinafter TKKI) renders free assistance (through training and the set-up of an equal opportunity mentor network) to local governments in preparing the professionally likewise competent equal opportunity programme: it offers a data set accessible and suitable for queries on an information platform, required for developing the local equal opportunity programmes and defined in a ministerial decree. 2255 persons were trained in the programme. TKKI has connections with 2954 settlements, meaning that this many local equal opportunity programmes have already been drafted; 1324 programmes have been approved by the representatives' bodies (this much feedback was sent to TKKI); 504 programmes were under negotiation at the time information was supplied by the State Secretariat for Social Inclusion.

- *Norwegian Fund and EEA*: The programme *Vulnerable children and young people* is connected to the key area of human resources and social development under the EEA Financial Mechanism announced in Government Decree 235/2011 (of 15.11.): it is targeted at supporting the most disadvantaged groups including the Roma population. The State Secretariat for Social Inclusion under EMMI submitted a draft programme for preventing the drop-out of Roma girls, with child protection and sports integration developments also integrated in the programme elements. The total budget of the programme is EUR 13,195,294. The four sub-programmes are related to the below areas:
 - supporting sports integration projects (budget: EUR 3,221,741),
 - preventing the early school leave of disadvantaged and multiple disadvantaged, primarily Roma girls (budget) EUR 2,666,667),
 - supporting projects for promoting education on how to start and live an independent life (budget: EUR 2,000,000),
 - developing the care system for children and young people with dual needs (budget: EUR 2,431,953).
- Objective of the *programme aimed at women*: Training Roma women, employing them in social and child welfare institutions, which has treble yield: the unemployed gets a job, the social welfare system gets gap-filling labour and those cared for (parents, children) get a possibility for assistance not yet used. As the Roma are employed in assistance vocations, confidence is reinforced and prejudice lowered. The project contributes to 1000 persons' supported training. Those successfully finishing the training programmes apply to the social, child welfare and child protection institutions as potential labour. So far altogether 4,000 persons enrolled in the programme. Number of persons attending the training, until 31 August 2013: 780. Resource: SoROP 5.3.1.-B-2 tender: HUF 1.4 bln (employment); SoROP 5.3.1.-B-1: HUF 1.52 bln (training).

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.

(1) The culture of Hungarian national minorities represents a segment of the culture of the mother nation (language nation), due to its traditions, roots, contemporary daily relations, past and present factors influencing, inter alia, its present development and its language. Still, Hungarian life and the processes in Hungarian majority culture have reasonable impact on the culture of nationalities; the values of nationality culture enrich the entire Hungarian culture. This dual relationship in national culture can promote dialogue and cooperation among national cultures.

The existence and life of Hungarian nationality cultures under different conditions (decreasing number of those practising and "consuming" nationality cultures; different institutional, infrastructure-related, financial, legal, media etc. background; decades-long isolation of nationality culture from the cultural life of the mother nation/language nation) can, through interactions, easily lead to the loss of culture and to the accelerated cultural assimilation of national minority communities. Nationality culture is often assessed as purely traditional (consequently, incapable of development; or rural and non-urban type), and nationality community education is frequently considered to equal the preservation of tradition. To the contrary, as long as a community is alive and operational, it creates, "produces" its culture that changes together with lifestyle. So nationality cultures must not be considered precedent non-live cultures.

Hungarian nationalities with traditionally inhabited settlements (Croats, Germans, Romanians, Serbs, Slovaks, Slovenes, Rusyns) have so far somewhat preserved their traditional rural communities which are perhaps the most important bases of community culture and education. These nationalities developed and practised their traditional rural culture with linguistic features different from Hungarian during the 18th and 19th centuries. The nationality-led preservation of tradition and community education both evolved on the basis of this folk tradition in the 20th century. Some national minorities (e.g. German, Serb) also had traditional urban culture. However, due to the not only voluntary assimilation of urban layers and the bourgeoisie by the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the compelled drift of masses of national minorities to over the border after the two peace treaties, their deportation and translocation during and after WWII and the internal movement of masses on account of socialist industrialization, this segment of culture and tradition was subject to major discontinuity (split).

By the time modern 20th century mass culture and elite culture developed in Hungary, too, they mainly developed as the products of Hungarian culture, though with some exceptions like Matica Srpska, Croat nationality reading groups, theatre initiatives in German and Slovak languages. Owing to state intervention and the new borders delineated after WWI, a great number of persons from the national minority population and their cultural institutions were driven to behind the new borders and, consequently, the culture of Hungarian nationalities lacked an up-to-date institutional frame and support, major masses and homogeneous ethnic areas. Hungarian nationalities basically consume Hungarian mass culture nowadays, and if they require their own (language) mass culture, they can consume the mass culture of not their own but of the mother country and mother nation, thanks to modern communication devices, the internet and the recently better possibilities to cross Central European borders.

(2) National minority tasks are partly performed in the State Secretariat for Culture in the Ministry of Human Capacities: the main areas to highlight here are public collections and

theatres. The State Secretariat for Culture made the following assessment of the area of public collections. Article 20 (modified in 2010) of Act LXVI of 1995 on Public Records, Public Archives and the Protection of Private Archives granted a legal possibility to set up further nationality archives. Following the earlier establishment of the Museum and Archives of Polish Minority in Hungary, some steps were similarly taken to set up nationality archives for the Roma, though this has not yet been implemented. The modification in 2012 of Act CXL of 1997 on Museum Institutions, Public Library Services and Community Culture led to stipulating, in a regulation, that "county libraries offer and organize library services for the national minority inhabitants of the county in the entire territory of the county". EMMI Decree 39/2013 (of 31.05.) on the Operation of the Library Supply Service System takes the importance of nationality supply into consideration in organizing the supply of libraries in small settlements, so in Section 4 (1) the services of county libraries offered on the basis of a small settlement agreement include, in point 7, "supply of information about library services on the website of the small settlement local government, with special regard to (...) information relevant to national minority members". The modification in 2013 of Government Decree 64/1999 (of 28.04.) on Keeping a Register of Public Libraries compels local governments that operate public libraries to declare if they offer nationality library services.

The Nationality Sub-portal of the National Library of Foreign Literature and a portal in 17 languages ("Ask the librarian in your native language") were developed in the frames of the tender *In several voices - developing national minority and music services in the National Library of Foreign Literature* of the National Library of Foreign Literature (SoROP 3.2.4.) in 2009. The National Library of Foreign Literature is the coordination centre of nationality libraries in Hungary. The work done there is intended to encourage nationalities to preserve their native language and culture and create new documents in their native language. In this framework, the Library is continually and nationally responsible for managing the state financed document supply of the 13 officially recognized nationalities. 19 county libraries and Szabó Ervin Library, Budapest are involved in the supply of nationality documents. They are responsible for making proposal lists every year, based on book market supplies in the mother countries and Hungary, for purchasing the documents annually ordered by the partners and registering them in the site catalogue. Additionally, they develop a nationality database collected from, among others, publications concerning the 13 nationalities in Hungary; publications discussing the international topics of nationality issues; topics connected to ethnic minorities in the world, to international and local social processes; publications focused on migrants and the phenomenon of migration. All this in the native languages of the 13 nationalities in Hungary, in Hungarian and the major world languages (English, German, Russian).

The SoROP 3.2.4. "*Knowledge expo-Express*" EU co-financed programme implemented in the 2009-2013 period helped libraries develop a multi-language portal, including websites and portals accessible in the languages of the nationalities.

(3) Each nationality has by now set up its theatre and drama group. They regularly perform before a national audience speaking the specific language and the audience of the mother country. Multi-nationality theatre festivals are likewise regularly organized. Dedicated funds were available from the state budget to support continuous work in ethnic theatres and official drama groups in the years of the reporting period. Based on the definition in Act XCIX of 2008 on the Support and Special Employment Rules of Performing Arts Organizations (hereinafter Performing Arts Act) ethnic theatre is a theatre performing in a national minority language or in the Hungarian language, recognised by the declaration of the national minority self-

government, the performances of which are created by the community of authors who are connected to the specific minority, and satisfy primarily the demand of this minority community for education in their native language and are related to the socio-cultural background and traditions of the minority community.

Back in 2013, EMMI invited an open tender, based on Article 19 of the Performing Arts Act, to support the implementation of professional programmes in, and the operation of, theatre and dance performing and arts organizations with no qualifications in the period between 1 January 2013 and 28 February 2014. Ethnic theatres won HUF 100,750,000 support in this tender. The nine supported organizations were as follows: Croat Theatre, Pécs; "Hungarian Serb Theatre"; Cervinus Teátrum Arts Services Non-profit Ltd.; Cinka Panna Gypsy Theatre Foundation; Alternative Arts Foundation; Vertigo Slovak Theatre; Karaván Arts Foundation; Hókirálynő Association for Healthy and Civilized Children and Families; Romano Teatro Cultural Association.

Based on the intention of the portfolio, the provisions in the Performing Arts Act and in accordance with former practice, a separate tender budget line was available for these organizations from 2013, assessed on the basis of quality assurance criteria detailed in the invitation. A delegate from the deputy state secretariat for nationality and civil social relations also sat in the board of trustees assessing the tender. The tender budget line reached HUF 127.7 M in 2009, HUF 108 M in 2010, HUF 108 M in 2011 and HUF 68 in 2012 (Croat Theatre, Pécs did not get its support from here this year). The support in 2009-2012 belonged to the local government chapter. Payment was effected to the local government in one sum, after decision-making.

(4) The State Secretariat for Culture made the following assessment of the area of community education: The nationality activities included in the responsibilities of the public education domain are performed by two background institutions of EMMI: National Institute for Community Culture (predecessor until November 2012: Hungarian Institute for Culture and Art, then until 31 March 2013: National Institute for Public Education and Public Collections) and the Hungarian Heritage House.

The *National Institute for Community Culture* (hereinafter NMI) is responsible, among others, for nurturing relationship between the national cultural organizations and institutions of Hungarian nationalities and the field-specific national organizations and institutions of the majority society and for joining in the international performance of tasks in all these areas. In collaboration with the cultural experts of nationalities living in Hungary and for the most effective development and enforcement of the cultural autonomies of the nationalities and the efficient facilitation of their community education, the Institute established the *Nationality Cultural Expert Council* (hereinafter NKSZT), which is still run by NMI as a successor, in 2004. The draft of the new operating rules of this body is subject to legal assessment at the time of completing the Country Report. Mission of the Nationality Cultural Expert Council (NKSZT): coordinate cooperation between the National Institute for Community Culture and nationality cultural organizations, mutually mediate demands and interests related to nationality culture; assess possibilities for cooperation; identify development tasks. The body performs decision-preparatory, consulting, proposal-making, opinion-making and working relations-supporting tasks in the nationality activity of NMI. The President of NKSZT is the Director General of NMI, and the Co-President is a member of the Council from a minority, by rotation. The experts joined the body at the Director General's request and not by delegation, coming from the cultural civil organizations or national self-governments of each nationality.

Community education remains a key area in the culture of Hungarian nationalities, it has strong impact on the subsistence of nationality communities and on preserving their identity and language. For the lack of satisfactory conditions, the culture and language of nationalities in Hungary does not integrate, does not improve but decays, which is a threat. NMI is responsible for helping Hungarian nationalities build their cultural autonomy with the scientific and methodological know-how cumulated. Back in 2010-2012, driven by their own initiative, NMI and NKSZT developed a Nationality Community Education Strategy for the 2010-2015 period, i.e. a period spanning over government cycles. Nationality cultural experts, the heads of nationality institutions and self-governments also participated in the compilation of this document. The details of the Strategy shall be reviewed, considering the new professional duties identified after NMI reorganization, and will be discussed with NKSZT members.

NMI is responsible for primarily supporting the cultural ambitions of the 13 nationalities living in Hungary. Assisting the nationalities in their international relations was to a slighter extent but closely connected to this work, which entailed an expansion in the international relations of the Institute. Continuous relationship has been developed with the international cultural partner organization of the Institute, the Zagreb-seated Croat Cultural Sabor. As a result, Tűzmadár Mozgásszín Movement Group from Nagykanizsa performed at the Dance Festival in Cakovec in 2011, and Silhouette Dance Ensemble at the International Festival of Modern Dance Groups in Karlovac in 2012.

The *Pro Cultura Minoritatum Hungariae Award* was efficiently managed and the applications arranged in the reporting period. The Award has become a high-rank acknowledgement and key catalyst in the cultural work of some nationalities. The acknowledgement may be granted to persons/organizations who/that belong to nationalities living in Hungary (Bulgarian, Gypsy, Greek, Croat, Polish, German, Armenian, Romanian, Rusyn, Serb, Slovak, Slovene, Ukrainian), who/that performed outstanding activity for keeping and improving the native language-based cultural heritage of nationalities living in Hungary and contribute, through their activity, to the tolerance-based cohabitation of peoples in the Carpathian basin. (For instance: cultural public life, community education, arts, nationality media, nationality culture, patronage etc.). The *Nationality Gala Eve* has similarly become a significant social event. The Nationality Gala Eves in 2011 and 2012 were jointly organized by EMMI and the Theatre Association of National Minorities in Hungary, connected to the delivery of the Prime Minister's Award for Nationalities. The Minister of Human Capacities Zoltán Balog agreed to be the main patron of the latter event. The Nationality Gala Eve was similarly organized in 2013. A publication with details on the award winners and the programme will also come out in connection with the event.

The organization of the *photography tender "Past and Present of our Nationalities"* and the *Photo Exhibition "Our nationalities - in pictures"* also has some traditions. The opening and award ceremonies are held one or two yearly. In the frames of a road-show, the *Photo Exhibition* was on show in the Office of the Commissioner of Fundamental Rights in November-December 2012. NMI supported the photography tender *Croatia in pictures* invited by the Croat Self-Government of Lipótváros, Budapest in June 2011. The tender, the exhibition and the album were all implemented efficiently. In the auspices of SoROP 3.2.12-12/1 "Cultural experts' extension training for service improvement", the Institute completed the accreditation document of the professional extension training programme *National Minority Cultures in Hungary*. The accreditation has been completed. The extension training is held in NMI, it is targeted at expanding the knowledge base (concerning nationality cultures) of

experts working in community education and developing cooperation with national minority self-governments and cultural organizations. The NGO of national competence *Cultural Association of National Minorities in Hungary* was set up on 31 May 2012. The court registration of the Association, established with NMI assistance, was ongoing at the time of completing the Country Report.

(5) The values of folk music and folk dance are collected and documented in several subsidized institutions including the *Hungarian Heritage House*. Hungarian practice demonstrates that the attention paid by the institution to preserving and handing down nationality culture is exemplary even at the global scale. As regards certain nationalities Hungary can expressly claim to have the best documented nationality folklore tradition in the world. Due to the nature of collection, the folklore of some Hungarian national minorities is discovered at various extents in the individual segments of this domain. The dance tradition of e.g. Lovari Gypsies is fairly well documented, but on the contrary, such collections have hardly been made in Boyash Gypsy communities. Due to having no village communities, no data are practically available about the folk dance traditions of Ukrainians, Armenians or Poles living in Hungary. This certain degree of asymmetry is characteristic of the stocks of collections in Lajtha László Folklore Documentation Centre, a public collection store of the Hungarian Heritage House.

The Institute began preparations for the TV folk art talent show and competition *Főlszállott a páva* in December 2011, at the request of MTVA. Presenting the traditional culture of national minorities in Hungary and Hungarians living abroad was a key aspect in defining the professional criteria of the competition. Accordingly, the conditions for application included the following requirement: "Performances connected to any regions of authentic Hungarian folk music, folk dance and folk song and to the local traditions of national minority regions in Hungary may apply to the competition". As an evidence underlying the successful arrangement of the competition, over four million Hungarians watched the programme, based on official measurements. Three national minority competitors performed in the broadcast rounds of the competition: Tanac Dance Ensemble following national Croat traditions; Čače Rom ensemble playing Lovari Gypsy folk music; and Tradition-Preserving Dance Ensemble of Romanians in Hungary. Here we should also note, however, that the ensembles and soloists of Hungarian nationality chose Hungarian nationality (primarily Gypsy) folklore material for their performances on several occasions during the competition, which is an exemplary commitment, even in international scales, to the values of national minority cultures. The competition series will be continued in 2014.

(6) The State Secretariat for Culture made the following assessment of the area of cultural development. With regard to developments for employment, schooling and education supported by the European Social Fund (ESF), the beneficiaries of cultural development projects implemented from EU funds could also be minority self-governments, minority NGOs and institutions operated by them. The portfolio spent 15.8 percent of cultural supports on financing the developments of ecclesiastic, civil and nationality (minority) self-governments and non-profit organizations in the 2007-2013 EU budget period (this primarily covers projects implemented after 2009). Although, despite this possibility, minority organizations were not highly active, minority-nationality self-governments and organizations could still win nearly HUF 130 M support in cultural tenders.

(7) Nationality-oriented support politics followed the below trends in the first half of the reporting period, i.e. between 2009-2010. The funds, under the Budget Act, for the direct central support granted to Hungarian nationalities (minorities) were stated as public foundation,

task and project financing budget limits in the chapter-managed appropriations of the National Assembly, the Prime Minister's Office, KIM (as the successor of the Prime Minister's Office) and the individual special portfolios. Key elements of supports granted to Hungarian nationalities (minorities):

- appropriation to cover the annual operating costs of national minority self-governments;
- support framework of national and ethnic minority NGOs;
- support framework for the take-over and operation of minority institutions;
- minority coordination and intervention framework;
- Public Foundation for National and Ethnic Minorities in Hungary;
- Public Foundation for Hungarian Gypsies;
- annual operating support framework of settlement-based and regional minority self-governments;
- separated supplementary support framework for nationality education and schooling tasks;
- support framework of nationality theatres;
- support for regional development.

The direct central support granted to Hungarian nationalities is stipulated in the Budget Act in the second half of the reporting period, i.e. after 2010. The budget lines for tasks financing remain stipulated in the actually effective budget act. The funds were stated among the chapter-managed appropriations of KIM in 2011 and, from June 2012, of EMMI, accordant with Government Decision 1205/2012 (of 26.06.). The nationality-targeted supports managed by EMMI (by KIM until 26 June 2012) cover the below main areas:

- support of national minority self-governments and media;
- support of institutions operated by national minority self-governments;
- nationality supports (supports granted by tender and after individual application);
- support of settlement-based and regional national ethnic self-governments (operational and task-based support).

Given that, in addition to nationality-oriented supports, the support for the operation of national minority self-governments, for the media and for institutions operated by the former, earlier attached to the chapter of the National Assembly, was also transferred into the management of the State Secretariat for Religious, Nationality and Civil Social Relations from 2010, supports for nationality purposes are now consolidated in a single unit, so their use is more transparent.

The Electronic Tender Management and Cooperation System which permits a more express and more transparent tendering system was introduced in nationality tenders financed from the appropriation for nationality supports. The System is positively assessed among the applicants and, through the developments founded on various feedbacks, it is more and more adaptive to the users' and applicants' needs.

The performance of tasks related to nationality supports, as indicated in Chapter I of the Country Report, falls within the responsibilities of the Human Capacities Grant Management Office (earlier: Public Foundation for National and Ethnic Minorities in Hungary, then: Wekerle Sándor Fund Management Office).

(8) A requirement identified upon preparing the regulation on the rights of national minorities in Hungary was that nationality rights should relate to the members of the nationality only. The expectation is valid. It was not disputed by either the members of the nationality or the majority

society or the legislator, still, despite all efforts, the legislator could not draft a regulation without "coding" therein (something more than the option of misuse) that affiliation to a nationality is the question of subjective assessment and not a factual issue. To prevent any misuse mentioned, the Nationality Act stipulated in 2014 that census data shall be a precondition for the call of national minority self-government elections. In accordance with Section 56 (1) of the regulation "Elections shall be called for the election of the members of a local nationality self-government if the number of individuals forming part of the given nationality in the locality reaches thirty according to the data, aggregated by nationalities, of the data disclosure provided in response to the questions of the latest census regarding nationality affiliation.". Questions 34, 35 and 36 in the census focused on nationality affiliation, so the aggregation of the answers to any of the three questions produces the number relevant to election.

According to the nationality data from the 2011 census, the 2014 elections for nationality self-government representatives can be called in 22% more settlements than in the preceding case. The number of elections potentially called decreases in the Greek (-8%), Armenian (-26%), Rusyn (-47%!) and Slovene (-18%) nationalities. The increase is the most prominent with the Romanians who can establish, instead of the former 71 self-governments, as much as 185 new bodies in 2014 (+106%). The number of potentially elected bodies rises in a nearly equal ratio with the Ukrainians (+104), while the German, Serb and Slovak rise reaches 62%, 39% and 31%, respectively. The totality of these figures means that in theory nearly three thousand national minority self-governments can be established at the national minority self-government elections in 2014.

The operational and task-based budgetary support of nationality self-governments was also subject to major changes. Dedicated budget line: HUF 1,520,000,000, a sum remaining unchanged over the years. However, it should be emphasized that the structure was subject to major correction: the ratio of operational and task-based support changed as follows, versus the 75%-25% ratio of operational and task-based support applied earlier:

- 1/3: general operational support (HUF 506,666,667);
- 2/3: task-based support (HUF 1,013,333,333).

The change in the ratio meant a considerable step forward because it made their operation more calculable and expedient and also provided incentives for actually performing their nationality-based public tasks. As regards nationality task-based support, the currently effective regulation permits nationality self-governments to make preliminary comments to the documents sent, which ensures that each protocol is completely delivered to the supporting entity and prevents any administrative errors during delivery. In summary, a transparent system has been set up in the nationality support policy since 2010. Owing to the take-over of institutions, the support of institutions operated by national minority self-governments, the annual budget lines of chapter-managed appropriations (stipulated by the actually effective budget act) have risen in the case of the relevant self-governments.

Some national minority self-governments also took over the operation of several public educational institutions in the reporting period. According to the regulation, the state supplies the new operators with everything formerly granted to the previous operators (the local self-governments). (The nationality educational institutions taken over are introduced in detail in Article 12.)

The Research Institute of Slovaks in Hungary, the Research Institute of Greeks in Hungary, the Scientific Institution of Croats in Hungary and the Serb Institute are all operated by national

minority self-governments. The Research Institute of Romanians in Hungary is run as an association, whereas ELTE Research and Teacher Training Centre of Germans in Hungary is set up within university frames. The portfolio responsible for nationalities regularly supports, by tenders, the implementation of research, publications and consultations assisting nationality-based self-knowledge, education and schooling.

The tendency is shown in the table below:

***Supports for institutions operated by national minority self-governments:
between 2010-2013 (HUF million)***

Nationality self-government	2010	2011	2012	2013
Bulgarian National Self-Government	19.2	19.2	28.6	30.8
National Self-Government of Greeks in Hungary	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5
National Croat Self-Government	51.5	55.0	55	57.5
National Self-Government of Germans in Hungary	73.2	73.2	105.6	125.6
National Self-Government of Romanians in Hungary	17.2	17.2	19.7	19.7
National Roma Self-Government	78.6	78.6	78.6	78.6
National Polish Self-Government	14.6	14.6	18.6	24.6
National Armenian Self-Government	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0
National Slovak Self-Government	105.8	105.8	115.8	115.8
National Slovene Self-Government	16.9	21.9	21.9	43.4
Serb National Self-Government	32.2	42.2	54.7	54.7
National Rusyn Self-Government	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8
Ukrainian National Self-Government	8.0	8.0	8	8
Total:	444.5	463.0	533.8	586.0

Source: Ministry of Human Capacities

Article 6

. 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.

The measures taken on the basis of recommendations in the opinion of the Advisory Committee summarized in document ACFC/OP/III(2010)001 and assessing the Hungarian implementation of the herein treated article of the Framework Convention were described in Chapter I of the Country Report. Some additional information is supplied hereunder, in relation to the topic:

(1) The characteristic feature of the reporting period is that, first in the history of Hungarian public education, the culture of nationalities including Roma-Gypsy culture, the problems and possibilities of cohabitation are detailed in the National Core Curriculum (hereinafter NCC). NCC (Government Decree 110/2012 (of 04.06.)) covers the process of learning about the conditions of Roma people, the teaching of information regarding their history, cultural values and traditions. We have already presented in the previous reports that the content-wise regulation of public education in Hungary stipulates that pupils learning in elementary schools in Hungary should get acquainted with the peculiar situation and cultural values of nationalities. We have also described the case when, upon teaching specific topics and curricula, NCC and the general curricula prescribed the supply of information about nationalities in Hungary. The above content-based regulators have also been renewed within the reform of public education. In the course of developing NCC and the consequential general curricula, considerable attention was paid to publishing nationality-related contents in the documents, in the proper mode and size. To this end, nationality organizations could also give their opinion about the preliminary technical materials, moreover, the relevant recommendations of several government and state stakeholders were integrated in the to-be core and general curricula.

NCC emphasizes as early as in the first paragraph of the introduction that the fundamental goal in the new public educational system is the transfer of not only national and universal education but of the culture of nationalities in Hungary. Later, this thought is described in more specific words: "NCC intends to give a major role to universal Hungarian national tradition, to the development of national consciousness including care for the consciousness of those belonging to nationalities in Hungary. Consequently, adapted to regional and local features, the main content-related characteristics of knowledge contents relevant to nationalities must be proportionally present at the various levels of content-based regulation and in each schooling phase."

Naturally, actual content is mainly inherent in texts related to the educational areas of 'Hungarian language and literature' and 'mankind and society' (mainly as elements of the sub-segment 'History, national and ethnic awareness', in the latter case). For instance, in the curriculum of history, a separate, so-called repetitive/recurring and longitudinal topic spanning over several ages focuses on nationalities living in Hungary, under the title "Minority, majority, nationalities". (But the longitudinal topic "Interaction and cohabitation of nations and religions" similarly touches upon this topic.) Considering that general curricula are built on NCC, the issue of nationalities is presented in a similar place and form in these documents, too.

The Gypsy/Roma nationality is a part of the nationalities living in the territory of the country, so they are identified in just a few places in NCC and general curricula texts. For instance, integrated in history education under NCC, it is included in the thematic topic "Globalizing world and Hungary", in years 5-8 and 9-12 (under the title "Culture of nationalities and minorities in Hungary, changes in the conditions of the Roma/Gypsy nationality" and with the wording "History, conditions and integration of the Roma/Gypsy society" in the former and latter cases, respectively). In the thematic topic 'National and ethnic awareness' it is built in the

title of the sub-segment "Culture and traditions of nationalities living in Hungary" (e.g. elements of Roma/Gypsy ethnic awareness).

(2) The education of Gypsy ethnic awareness, supported by the Government, is integrated not only in the National Core Curriculum but also in the *tertiary educational* system. The Faculty of Military Sciences and Officer Training in the National University of Public Service and the Ludovika Battalion of the Hungarian Defence Forces hold Gypsy ethnic awareness lessons for to-be officers in the fourth year.

Based on HM Directive 68/2012 (of 01.10.) on the Order of Applying for and Awarding Lippai Balázs Scholarship for Equal Opportunities, the Ministry of Defence regularly calls for proposals for "Lippai Balázs Scholarship for Equal Opportunities" among the students of secondary schools and tertiary educational institutions who learn military basics as a freely selected subject for the secondary school leaving examination or have registered for the subject of home defence. The scholarship may be awarded to the students of secondary schools or tertiary educational institutions who are of Hungarian nationality, are disadvantaged or admit to be of Roma origin and meet the conditions of the call for proposals.

An extension training department (Equal opportunities and minority protection management) with stand-alone specialization has been set up in the Faculty of Public Administration of the National University of Public Service. Relevant researches have been published on several occasions, including e.g. in the Roma special issue of the periodical *Társadalom és Honvédelem* (Society and National Defence) in 2008.

The Application for Bursa Hungarica Tertiary Educational Self-Government Scholarship is intended to promote equal opportunities in tertiary education.

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.

(1) The new regulation on the operation of nationality self-governments has already been summarized in Chapter II, in connection with the Nationality Act. Self-governance shall be introduced in detail hereinafter. Concordant with the rules on local governments, the Nationality Act systematizes, clarifies, yet simplifies the regulation in the below topics:

- origin and termination of the assignment of the representatives' council;
- legal status, rights and obligations of the nationality self-government;
- cooperation of the nationality self-government with the state and local government bodies;
- operation, responsibilities and competences of the nationality self-government;
- the nationality self-government representatives' rights and obligations, rules concerning officials;
- property holdings and incomes of nationality self-governments, management rules, controlling the use of state aid;
- legal succession and temporary property management, settlement upon the termination of the self-government, the representatives' council and the general assembly.

In purview of the provisions of the Nationality Act relevant to the nationality self-government system, nationality self-government is a legal entity of public legal status, operating as a body self-governing itself, established and operating as a result of democratic elections under the rules of substantive law and procedural rules stipulated in law, in accordance with the

Nationality Act, performing public nationality tasks. In the frames of managing nationality-related public affairs, the nationality self-government acts within its responsibilities and competences and so adopts decisions, manages alone, proceeds as an owner with regard to its properties, develops its budget on its own and performs its budgetary management accordingly.

The extent of independence of the nationality self-government system from the local government system has continuously been on the agenda since 1993. Earlier, local nationality self-governments did not have a staff, did not manage themselves alone, and the rules on their legal standing and operation were identical or similar. Later, the relationship became "looser", the local nationality self-government system more or less expressly demerged from the local government system, and affiliating the national minority self-government system to the local government system has always been out of the question, from a conceptional point of view. The adoption of the Nationality Act and Act CLXXXIX of 2011 on the Local Governments of Hungary (hereinafter Local Government Act) led to the creation of two stand-alone systems with the below interconnection points:

- the operational conditions of the local nationality self-government are met by the local government, given that the local nationality self-government does not have an office of its own;
- the rules relevant to local governments apply as subordinated rules;
- the local nationality self-government could get specific state aid through the local government until 31 December 2012, but this interconnection point was ceased as of 1 January 2013.

The aim of regulating (based on substantive law) the election of representatives to nationality self-governments is that a nationality self-government should be established only if actual community background, supported with census data, exists in the settlements and at the regional level, still, the specific nationality should have national representation even if it does not set up a self-government at any other level. In agreement with the Fundamental Law, elections for nationality self-governments shall be held every 5 years, on the same day as the general election of local government representatives and mayors. Citizens listed in the nationality poll book in their residence may participate in nationality self-government elections. The condition of the right to vote is that the citizen shall have right to vote at the local government election and admit his affiliation to the specific nationality, whereas the right to stand for election is conditional on Hungarian citizenship and conditions stricter than the effective regulation. Interim elections may be held at settlement, regional (county/metropolitan) and national levels alike. The law brings back the institution of transformed nationality self-government in the nationality self-government system.

The metropolitan and county government office performs the regulatory supervision of nationality self-governments in accordance, in content and mode, with the order of the regulatory supervision of local governments, exc. the case of making up for any missing decision by the nationality self-government (supplementation of acts). The regulatory supervision of the national self-government and the bodies thereof is performed by the metropolitan and county government office assigned by the Government. The metropolitan and county government office may only audit the legality of any self-government decision passed within discretionary power.

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.

(1) In terms of, among others, religion, the Government supports the preservation and development of the nationalities' own culture, the mitigation of their cultural disadvantages, and in performing these duties it counts on help from the churches. As mentioned in the second country report, the Hungarian State met its obligations to the Romanian Orthodox Church in Hungary on the basis of Act XXXII of 1991 on the Settlement of the Property Status of Former Church Properties. The affairs related to all the former properties of the Serb Orthodox Diocese of Buda were settled in the third reporting period.

Churches and religious life in nationality languages play a major role in preserving the identity of nationalities in Hungary. From among historical churches, the Hungarian Catholic Church and the Hungarian Evangelical-Lutheran Church have an outstanding role in the religious life of nationalities. The Croats, Poles and Slovenes living in Hungary are Roman Catholic. The majority of the Germans and Slovaks is Roman Catholic, while some others are Evangelic. The majority of the Roma is Roman Catholic and a minor part is Greek Catholic. The Bulgarians, Greeks and Serbs are Orthodox, and a huge proportion of Romanians in Hungary is also linked to the Romanian Orthodox Church.

The importance of religious life in the native language (church service, religious education) and liturgies in the nationality language (christening, wedding, burial) cannot be overestimated. The preservation of national identity and religious life in the native language are closely correlated. The way of practising religious life in the native language varies by nationality and religion. Bulgarian, Romanian and Serb Orthodox churches hold the church services and catechism lessons in the native language. The need to practice religion in the native language is perceivably increasing in Catholic and Evangelical nationality communities. But the chronic shortage of clergymen, typical of almost each relevant community, complicates this practice. Where feasible due to geographical location, the clergymen speaking the language of the nationalities will commit to pastoral care in several settlements.

Churches lay emphasis on pastoral services for the nationality. Churches with the biggest membership also provide services in the nationality language, as required by the faithful. So e.g. the Catholic church offers pastoring services in, beside Hungarian, German, Slovak, Croatian, Polish and Slovenian; the Greek Catholic church in Rusyn and Romanian; the Evangelical-Lutheran church in German and Slovak. Moreover, in some cases, services in the native language by a pastor from the mother country are also facilitated. Nationality Orthodox churches logically use their native language both in their liturgy and administration.

Several churches run nationality-type public educational and tertiary educational institutions. Hungarian churches agree to play an ever bigger role in aiding the Gypsy and promoting their integration and inclusion (e.g. Gypsy chapel and community house in Hodász, in the Greek Catholic Diocese of Hajdúdorog). A Greek Catholic Gypsy kindergarten has also been opened in Hodász. Pastoration in big churches for the Gypsies is becoming more and more intensive. Houses of prayer have been established in several places, expressly in Gypsy quarters where these became the scenes of everyday community life.

The National Slovak Self-Government reported on the connection of religious life of nationalities and the media thereof. Based on this report, a 30 and 55 minute religious programme was broadcast every Saturday in the Slovak programme of the Hungarian Radio in 2011. In addition to religious news and information, this included reports and interviews with the representatives of the Evangelical-Lutheran and the Catholic churches. Additionally, a short preach is also broadcast. Naturally, the major religious holidays (Christmas, Easter, Whitsun, Corpus Christi etc.) were also commemorated. Tales with biblical stories for the young were introduced in the Saturday programme in 2011.

(2) The state budget support of churches directly linked to nationalities and granted in the years of this reporting period is summarized in the table below:

Budget support of churches connected to nationalities, in 2009-2012 in HUF				
Church	2009, total	2010, total	2011, total	2012, total
Serb Orthodox Diocese of Buda	123,938,206	117,275,338	163,638,987	141,419,992
Bulgarian Orthodox Church in Hungary	5,954,660	5,335,326	6,153,306	6,219,696
Romanian Orthodox Church in Hungary	18,916,602	12,733,597	31,494,476	21,798,174
Armenian Church in Hungary	2,022,328	1,863,050		2,053,952
Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church	1,567,856	1,052,297		
Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople Hungarian Orthodox Exarchate	7,231,404	6,578,413	11,402,500	7,825,185

Source: Ministry of Human Capacities

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 take 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.

(1) The Hungarian State recognizes the right of nationalities to freely express their opinion in their native language and facilitates the access of nationality communities to media. The central budget has resources appropriated for publishing the journals of nationalities in their native language. MR4 radio programmes in nationality languages are broadcast by the AM transmitting stations in Lakihegy, Marcali, Pécs and Szolnok which provide total national coverage with the daily 12-hours series of programmes in 13 languages; likewise, there is continuous broadcasting on www.radio.hu website. MR4 helps nationalities in Hungary care for their native language, culture and identity, preserve their nationality cohesion and have variegated approach to the issues of affiliation to the majority nation and everyday integration. It opens the door to the advocacy organizations, arts and cultural societies, religious and any other communities of nationalities that made efforts, in liberal organizational forms, to preserve the nationalities. In Hungarian speaking programmes they also address the representatives of the majority nation, tell them about the life of nationalities in Hungary and promote dialogue not only between the majority nation and the individual nationalities but also among the 13 nationalities.

In the group of nationalities in Hungary, the Slovenes have their own terrestrial broadcasting radio run by the National Slovene Self-Government. Radio Monošter is a community radio operating for several years now. Another broadcasting company (Vértessomló Association for Community Education) acquired the right to broadcast nationality community TV programmes. The NGO, operating in a settlement in Komárom-Esztergom county, agreed to make a TV programme for the German nationality living in Vértessomló. The 2-hour-long Hungarian and German edited programme, broadcast every week, is accessible through the local cable network. The National Croat Self-Government established and operates an internet radio, Croatica Radio. Serbs in Hungary can also listen to internet radio. Radio "Srb" was founded by the Serb National Self-Government. It is accessible and can be received 24 hours a day.

The central budget has resources appropriated for publishing the printed press of nationalities in their native language. Funds were granted from the budget to publish the nationally distributed papers of the nationalities, written in their native language, during the reporting period. State aid for nationality papers was integrated in the budget of national minority self-governments from 2011, so media producers can get the budget support directly, without any applications. Some of the nationalities have a continuously financed central weekly. The Bulgarian, Pole and Romanian communities received support to publish two papers in their native languages each, and the Gypsies can publish 5 papers. In addition to the papers of nationalities written in their native languages, the inter-ethnic periodical Barátság (Friendship) also received budget support.

The key changes made and results achieved in the reporting period and affecting the media of the nationalities are described under a separate title in Chapter II of this Country Report. The information hereunder will focus on issues not yet detailed.

(2) As regards the content of nationality programmes broadcast in the Hungarian Radio, the structure of the daily 2-hour programmes of big nationalities is identical but is frequently

different in small nationalities, given that they can reach the audience in 30 minutes a week. The programmes of big nationalities are rebroadcast in the nationality programmes of the Hungarian Radio, in the sequence as broadcast, from 8.00 p.m. each day. The broadcasting times of the individual nationalities are as follows in the Hungarian Radio:

The half-an-hour-a-week programme in **Bulgarian** informs the Bulgarians in Hungary about the most important Bulgarian and local events, follows the traditional and Pravoslavlic holidays, makes reports and interviews with Bulgarians in Hungary, the mother country and over the borders. In collaboration with Radio Bulgaria station of the Bulgarian National Radio, it communicates a lot of interesting materials mainly from the lives of over-the-border Bulgarians and about the prominent personalities of Bulgarian culture and social life. Only Bulgarian music is on: mainly contemporary modern pieces, though occasionally classical Pravoslavlic music is also on the air. Naturally, the variants of Bulgarian folk music are regularly broadcast, including primarily authentic and ethno music and jazz settings. (Programme: 1.00-1.30 p.m. on Wednesdays; rebroadcast: 1.00-1.30 a.m. on Fridays)

Among the programmes in **Lovari** language, the programme "Jelenlét" (Existence) Roma Cultural Magazine offers various reports, portraits, programme guides with the actors of Roma cultural life week after week. The strength of this programme lies in its approach from the affected person's point of view. "Jelenlét" Roma Cultural Magazine is aimed at presenting the colourful variety of Roma culture and contributing to Hungarian intellectual and cultural life. (Programme: 5.06-5.30 p.m. on Sundays, Kossuth Radio)

"Három szólamra" ("For three voices") (Gypsy programme) is a programme in the nationality section of the Hungarian Radio, mainly about careers, current cultural events, research in archives, stories and tales, legendary musicians, customs and traditions. (Programme: 12.03-1.00 p.m. daily from Monday to Friday)

The programme in **Greek** informs the listeners half an hour a week about major events among the Greeks in Hungary and in the mother country. Ever since starting the programme, the editorial staff has paid particular attention to disseminating Greek culture and caring for their language. (Programme: 1.00-1.30 p.m. on Thursdays; rebroadcast: 1.00-1.30 a.m. on Saturdays)

The programme in **Croatian** broadcasts information and reports from the lives of Croats in Hungary, including latest news, specialties, reports on events in the life of the Croat nationality. (Programme: 8.00-10.00 a.m. every day)

The programme in **Polish** primarily offers current topics of interest to the Polish community in Hungary: acts, education, cultural events, introducing persons of Polish origin, book shows, overview of traditions, religious holidays, over-the-border Polish diasporas etc. (Programme: 1.30-2.00 p.m. on Saturdays; rebroadcast: 1.30-2.00 a.m. on Mondays)

The magazine programme in **German** broadcasts latest news, information, specialities, reports on events from the life of the German nationality, with lots of modern and traditional music in German. (Programme: 10.00-12.00 a.m. every day)

The most typical topics in the **Armenian** programme include acts, education, cultural events, introduction of persons of Armenian origin, book shows, overview of traditions, religious holidays. There are regular reports on Armenians living in the diaspora, given that the number

of those living beyond the borders is three-fold of those in Armenia. (Programme: 1.00-1.30 p.m. on Saturdays; rebroadcast: 1.00-1.30 a.m. on Mondays)

Programmes in **Romanian** have been on the air since 1980. The two-hour-a-day programmes made in the Szeged studio of the Hungarian Radio spread up-to-date information about the events of the community, yet an eye is also kept on major events in the mother country. A biweekly Euro-regional programme "Európa hullámhosszán" ("On European wavelength") has been broadcast for over one and a half decades now. It is edited together with the colleagues in Timișoara, in two languages. (Programme: 4.00-6.00 p.m. every day)

The **Rusyn** programme includes topics like information about the events of Rusyn self-governments, with special attention to work in the national self-government; regular commemoration of Rusyn religious holidays; reports with celebrated Rusyn personalities; cultural guide (new books, CDs, exhibitions etc.); report on news about Rusyns over the border; news on key events in musical life. (Programme: 1.00-1.30 p.m. on Tuesdays; rebroadcast: 1.00-1.30 a.m. on Thursdays)

The programme in **Serbian** is primarily connected to the life, every days, culture and traditions of Serbs in Hungary and is intended to inform and entertain the members of the nationality, so the programme fulfils an important mission. The magazine programme keeps track of key moments in the everyday life and holidays of the Serb nationality two hours a day. It tries to provide objective information about the socio-political, religious, educational and cultural news and every days of Serbs in Hungary. Various cultural events held in the mother country and of major interest to Serbs in Hungary are also mentioned in the programme. The Serbian cross-border Euro-regional programme "Na talasima Evrope" ("On European wavelength") is broadcast once a month in the programme. It is made by the Serb staff of Subotica, Timișoara and Pécs radios. The Serbian musical magazine "Informative" is broadcast daily, whereas a request show is there to entertain listeners on Saturdays and Sundays. (Programme: 2.00-4.00 p.m. every day)

The two-hours-a-day programme in **Slovak** broadcasts information and reports from the lives of Slovaks in Hungary, including latest news, specialties, reports on events in the life of the nationality. (Programme: 6.00-8.00 p.m. every day)

The **Slovenian** magazine of the Hungarian Radio is broadcast 30 minutes a week. (Programme: 1.00-1.30 p.m. on Mondays; rebroadcast: 1.00-1.30 a.m. on Wednesdays) The programme is mainly filled with reports in the following topics:

- how those leaving their home villages preserve their native language and identity in the Hungarian environment;
- recollection of times in the home village;
- recollection of the reasons for and the mode of migration, adaptation to the new environment;
- conversations with Slovenes who live in nearby Mura land, Slovenia and have family relations and friendships with Slovenes in Hungary;
- education, culture, ethnography, latest news.

Based on information from the national self-government, Radio Monošter owned by the National Slovene Self-Government plays a determinative role in the field of Slovene nationality media. Instead of the former 8-hour-a-week broadcasting period it has been broadcasting 4 hours a day from 1 January 2012, and the necessary budgetary resources are available for its operation.

By profile, the *Ukrainian* programme is a news programme with music. Apart from news concerning the life of the local Ukrainian community and introduction to the activity of Ukrainian NGOs in the territory of Hungary, it also broadcasts current interviews and reports about the life of Ukrainians living here. But news from Ukraine are not missing, either. A special section is devoted to Ukrainian history, ethnography, literature and poetry. The broadcast typically supplies information and raises awareness; it does not intend to shift toward entertainment. It mainly broadcasts serious informative reports, reviews of research works, poems, prose, with music adapted to the mood of the topic. (Programme: 1.00-1.30 p.m. on Fridays; rebroadcast: 1.00-1.30 a.m. on Sundays)

In addition to the above and selecting from programmes for each nationality, *Gyöngyszemek* in Hungarian selects from the literature of the nationalities, performed by Hungarian actors, in 5 minutes a week. (Programme: 1.55-2.00 p.m. on Sundays; rebroadcast: 1.55-2.00 a.m. on Tuesdays) *Egy hazában* ("In one homeland"), a similarly Hungarian speaking magazine programme focusing on nationality topics is broadcast at 1.00-1.55 p.m. on Sundays and rebroadcast at 1.00-1.55 a.m. on Tuesdays. *Nemzetiségeink zenéi* ("Music from our nationalities") shows the musical culture of the different nationalities each workday (60'). (Programme: 1.30-2.00 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays; rebroadcast: 1.30-2.00 a.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays) The weekend programme (60') *Nemzetiségeink zenéi* ("Music from our nationalities") shows the musical culture of the seven small nationalities (Bulgarian, Greek, Pole, Armenian, Rusyn, Slovene, Ukrainian) on Saturdays and of the Roma nationality on Sundays. (Programme: 12.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays; rebroadcast: 0.00-1.00 a.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays) Finally, *Nemzetiségeink ünnepei* ("Holidays of our nationalities") is a 30-minute historical and cultural magazine related to the national holidays and illustrious anniversaries of the nationalities. It is broadcast subject to holidays. Programme: 1.30-2.00 p.m.; rebroadcast 2 days later: 1.30-2.00 a.m.)

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.**

1) Chapter II of the Country Report states that, alongside ratifying the Framework Convention, Hungary was one among the first to sign the Charter for Languages. We have also mentioned that, complying with the obligations under the Charter for Languages, Hungary submitted the fifth interim country report on our commitments under the Charter for Languages to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe in the years of the herein audited reporting period.

The report outlines the most important facts, data and events that derive from our commitment in connection with regional or minority languages for the period between January 2009 and December 2011. It gives a detailed account of the nationalities-related language policy of the Government and of enforcing the rights of nationalities in Hungary to use their language. The report provides comprehensive information about the fulfilment of Hungarian commitments defined in Articles 10, 11, 12 and 14 of the Framework Convention and relevant to the rights of nationalities to use their language.

The Hungarian report made by the Committee of Experts of the Charter for Languages covering the fifth monitoring cycle makes several positive statements about fulfilling the linguistic rights of nationalities living in Hungary. The Committee of Experts compliments to the Hungarian authorities on their continually high level of cooperation and their constructive attitude. The fifth interim report was made in agreement with the national minority self-governments. The Committee of Experts recognizes the value of the unique system of nationality self-governments which in general has a favourable impact on protecting and promoting nationality languages. It also mentions supplementary nationality education which is offered in case the precondition under the legal regulation of having eight pupils is not met and which the Committee of Experts finds a good practice. The support of nationality language teaching has not diminished though Hungary was also hit by the economic crisis. The system of supporting nationality papers has changed: the economic support from the state authorities is included in the total budget of the specific nationality self-government. This permits long-term planning in this area, and the change was highly appreciated by the representatives of the nationalities. The representation of those speaking nationality languages remains in the new Media Council, though the number of board members has gone down. The times of broadcasting TV programmes in nationality languages are also better fitted.

Preparations for the sixth interim report covering the second half of the reporting period and related to the Charter for Languages have not yet begun by the time this Country Report related to the Framework Convention is completed.

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.**

The first three country reports supply detailed information about the rights of persons belonging to a nationality to register their surnames under the rules of their native language, to freely choose their own and their children's first name and record them in official documents.

(1) In exercising their rights attached to the use of communal names, nationalities have the right to use historically established locality names, street names and other geographical designations intended for the community (Article 18 of the Nationality Act). The rights connected to census data, primarily on language use, include inter alia that the inscriptions on boards with the names of settlements and streets hold, in addition to Hungarian wording and spelling, the traditional nationality name in the native language of the nationality or, in lack of the former, a name identical in content and form with the Hungarian name but inscribed in the native language of the nationality.

When ten percent of the population belongs to a nationality, the orders of the settlement-level local government shall be communicated in the language of the nationality. Printed matters, the notices of public institutions and public service companies, settlement and street names shall be published in the nationality language and, if the local government provides media services, it shall offer space for programmes and articles in the nationality language. In addition to the above, in settlements where the ratio of those belonging to a nationality reaches twenty percent, the local government body shall, at the initiative of the relevant nationality self-government, keep its records and decisions in Hungarian and in the specific nationality language; and in selecting public employees it shall facilitate the employment of persons who speak the native language of the nationality, naturally keeping the professionalism conditions in effect.

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.**

(1) Some earlier parts of the Country Report have already provided information about changes and government measures related to the herein assessed article of the Framework Convention and covering the reporting period. Issues concerning nationality education, regulatory changes, special budgetary supports facilitating the operation of nationality schools, legal changes in the programme of nationality self-governments for the take-over of institutions were in the focus of a separate title in Chapter II of the Country Report. Chapter II similarly detailed the legal regulations for promoting equal treatment and equal opportunities, regulatory changes prescribing the prohibition of educational segregation and discrimination, measures for the social integration of the Roma and Roma educational integration programmes. In Chapter III of the Country Report, as part of the information related to Article 5 of the Framework Convention, we reported on the budgetary support of institutions operated by local governments, about cultural, educational and native language-based programmes. In connection with Article 6 of the Framework Convention information was supplied about government actions to gather knowledge about the culture, history and specific circumstances of nationalities, and the integration of nationalities in the National Core Curriculum was also mentioned. Some further relevant information shall be supplied hereunder, based on information from the State Secretariat for Education.

(2) First and foremost, the efficiency of teaching nationality languages must be increased to decelerate and possibly reverse the assimilation process, given that, based on comparison between census and other registrations, considerably more than the ratio of those below 14 years of age in a nationality learn the language of several nationalities in schools. Strengthening the guarantees of linguistic rights and elaborating the potential mode of financing the community in the function of using the native language are factors that seem inevitable to raise the prestige of nationality languages. Nationality public education requires several actors. Its success depends on the communities that require it, on the activity of kindergartens, schools, student hostels, Klebelsberg Institution Maintenance Centre and the operating nationality self-governments and, to a major extent and retroacting against the former, on the conditions ensured by the State.

A common characteristic of the 13 recognized nationalities in Hungary is that they live in diasporas. Their proportion in settlements inhabited by, among others, them fails to reach 50%, with a few exceptions, and nationality languages have almost wholly lost ground in everyday language usage. Parallel with losing several traditional functions of the family, the native language has likewise essentially lost its heredity role and the use of nationality languages is more and more displaced from the private sphere. Consequently, kindergartens and schools are compelled to play a bigger role in handing down language and culture. So, in addition to services through education, they are obliged to meet the conditions inevitable for learning and developing the native language (nationality language, second language) and understanding the culture and history of these ethnic groups. Nationalities considerably differ in their numbers, organizational background, institutional network and the status of their language.

Number of nationality kindergartens, elementary schools, secondary schools and students, by nationality 2011/12 school year										
Nationality	Kindergartens		Elementary schools		Secondary grammar schools		Vocational secondary schools with language teaching		Vocational schools with language teaching	
	Institutions	Children	Institutions	Pupils	Institutions	Pupils	Institutions	Pupils	Institutions	Pupils
German	190	13585	256	43344	21	2498	5	153	-	-
Slovak	43	2275	35	3627	2	99	-	-	-	-
Croat	24	1210	34	2116	2	232	-	-	-	-
Romanian	9	558	11	1151	1	157	-	-	-	-
Serb	4	133	2	46	2	184	-	-	-	-
Slovene	2	15	5	252	-	-	1	11	1	6
Rusyn	1	30	2	85	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bulgarian	-	-	1	41	1	22	-	-	-	-
Greek	-	-	2	83	-	-	-	-	-	-

Pole	-	-	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total:	273	17806	348	50745	29	3192	6	164	1	6

Source: Ministry of Human Capacities

Communities with a bigger number of members or living in geographically more concentrated areas (Croats, Germans, Romanians, Serbs, Slovaks and Slovenes) had public educational institutions and social organizations before the political changes. Their other group did not have any or just one institution and began to organize themselves and establish their institutions typically after 1990 (Bulgarians, Greeks, Poles, Armenians, Rusyns and Ukrainians). Apart from cultural education and from teaching in their native language, as necessary, antidiscriminatory actions reinforcing their social conditions (equal opportunities, talent management) and improving their assessment also contribute to the education and schooling of Roma in Hungary.

(3) The portfolio responsible for public education has in recent years again met its responsibilities for nationality education and schooling in collaboration with national minority self-governments and the National Committee for Nationalities, considering the objectives of the medium-term development programme approved in 2004. The development programme set the below main tasks:

- Reforming the content and frames of nationality education, in accordance with the modification of the National Core Curriculum.
- Promoting the shift of education in the native language to high quality standards, by matching the legal and financial conditions of national and ethnic minority education. Prioritizing bilingual education and education wholly in the native language through the differentiation of supports.
- Continuing the native language textbook development and translation programme, a crucial precondition to nationality education; preparing the development of EU-funded nationality educational programmes (teaching aid, textbooks, curricula and related extension trainings for teachers). Facilitating free access to nationality textbooks through the transformation of the supply system.
- Continuing teachers' extended training in the native language, with special regard to meeting the personal conditions for teaching general educational subjects in the native language.
- Fulfilling the conditions of national and ethnic minority education in the group of national and ethnic minorities with no minority education before.
- Compensating nationality public educational institutions in settlements with less than 1100 inhabitants for their disproportionately high operating costs.

The results of the completed tasks are summarized hereunder for this reporting period.

(4) As regards the content, structure and regulation of nationality education and schooling, the regulators developed in conformance with the Constitution in the 90's (acting as an organic part of the Hungarian public educational system) offer a framework for nationality education and schooling, as shown in the previous reports. The special rules that define the legal and financial conditions of nationality educational work could be developed gradually, step by step.

After the change of the government in 2010, the new government decided to reform the conditions of Hungarian public and tertiary education, too. This process led to the adoption of a new nationality, public educational and tertiary educational act (the majority of regulations on

nationality education and schooling was defined in this act); additionally, all the documents underlying education and schooling were renewed, which affected the National Core Curriculum and the framework curricula. In agreement with the national minority self-governments, this work incorporates a reform of documents defining nationality education and schooling, including in particular the guidelines of nationality education in kindergartens and of education in nationality schools, as well as the nationality language and ethnic awareness framework curricula. In the course of making changes to the legal regulation, the legislator paid particular attention to preserving the values (created in close cooperation with nationality communities) of nationality education and schooling. Nationality education in kindergartens and schools must be organized and maintained at the initiative of at least eight parents. The right of consent of nationality self-governments is preserved in any of the operator's decisions regarding nationality education and schooling, and nationality self-governments may take over and operate public educational institutions.

(5) As presented before, the legislative, organizational and financial guarantees of nationality self-governments actually taking over and operating nationality public educational institutions were created earlier. As a result, the National Self-Government of Germans in Hungary took over the operation of two schools (Koch Valéria Secondary School, Elementary School, Kindergarten and Student Hostel, Pécs; German Nationality Secondary Grammar School and Economic Vocational Secondary School, Pilisvörösvár), the National Slovak Self-Government took over three (Slovak Elementary School, Kindergarten and Students' Hostel, Szarvas; Slovak Secondary Grammar School, Elementary School, Kindergarten and Student Hostel, Békéscsaba; Slovak (as the language of education) Elementary School and Student Hostel, Sátoraljaújhely) and the National Croat Self-Government one school (Croat Elementary School, Kindergarten and Students' Hostel, Hercegszántó) from 2004.

The range of public educational institutions operated by national minority self-governments was considerably expanded in the reporting period. In addition to those listed, some further nationality self-governments also joined the group of institution operators. The Serb National Self-Government and the National Self-Government of Romanians in Hungary took over the operation of Serb Elementary School and Kindergarten, Battonya and Lucian Magdu Romanian Elementary School and Kindergarten, respectively, in 2011. The Romanian national self-government, the National Roma Self-Government, the National Slovene Self-Government, the National Self-Government of Greeks in Hungary and the National Croat Self-Government took over the operation of three schools (Elek, Kétegyháza, Körösszakál), three schools (Szirák, Tiszapüspöki, Szolnok), two schools (Felsőszölnök, Apátistvánfalva), one school (Beloianis), one more school (Pécs), respectively, in 2012. The National Self-Government of Romanians in Hungary, the Serb National Self-Government and the National Slovak Self-Government took over the operation of Nicolae Bălcescu Romanian Secondary Grammar School, Elementary School and Student Hostel in Gyula, Nikola Tesla Serb (as the language of education) Kindergarten, Elementary, Secondary Grammar School and Student Hostel in Budapest and Slovak Bilingual Elementary School in Tótkomlós, respectively, in 2013.

The process is not yet finished as national minority self-governments have communicated their intention to take over further schools. In addition to the above, settlement-based nationality self-governments also operate kindergartens (Budakeszi, Törökbálint, Solymár, Szekszárd – each German) and schools (Piliscsaba – German, Mátraszentimre – Slovak). Our experience shows that the institutions taken over are successful, the relevant nationality communities are maximally satisfied with their activity, the number of pupils is increasing and their operation is safe. Based on legal regulations on supplementary nationality education, the Bulgarian, Greek

and Pole national minority self-governments have been operating supplementary nationality schools from the 2004/2005 school-year, instead of the former so-called „Sunday school“. The range of these institutions has not changed recently. The German, Serb and Slovak national self-governments established nationality pedagogical and methodological centres, which proves the demand to improve the quality of nationality education.

(6) The operation of nationality public educational institutions was financed in 2009-2012 identically with the preceding period. In addition to the basic and supplementary support defined in the annual budget act, the operators could win further support from the central budget (based on a ministerial decree) to operate the nationality public educational institutions, in order to compensate for their high specific costs due to the low number of pupils. Schools teaching wholly in the native language or in two languages, which are of outstanding importance regarding education in the native language, were still granted priority support. The institutions gradually transferred to bilingual nationality education similarly received priority support.

From among nationality language teaching schools and kindergartens, the operators of institutions in small settlements with less than 1100 inhabitants could get HUF 50 k support per child/pupil. The main aim in their case was to compensate them for their specifically higher (due to few pupils) operating burdens. Similarly from these funds, some further tasks could also be performed (in addition to the support of institutional operation): free supply of textbooks, use of professional nationality pedagogical services. The supply of nationality textbooks is a state obligation, based on the Nationality Act. These are textbooks published in a small number of copies, so market conditions do not apply. Consequently, state support is required for both developing and printing them. Earlier, publishing houses could get state support directly. From 2006, for the purchase of nationality textbooks, the operators of nationality schools get the value of the nationality textbooks directly ordered from the publishing houses, using the fund appropriated for nationality obligations in attachment 5 of the annual budget act. The schools use the textbooks as durable textbooks for 4 years. The measure led to a decrease in the amount of annual support (textbook re-printing must be financed every 4 years) and pupils can use nationality textbooks without any charges. (Pupils get the workbooks much cheaper than their production price.) The support dedicated to using professional pedagogical services is intended to encourage operators and institutions to use the professional assistance available for improving the quality of nationality educational and schooling work.

The legislative changes mentioned (presented) in Chapter II also had an impact on nationality public educational institutions. Kindergarten education and as part of it kindergarten education for nationalities still remains the obligatory task of local governments. School education and teaching and as part of it school education and teaching for nationalities is the obligatory task of the State according to the new law. To implement the above, from 1 January 2013 the Klebelsberg Institution Maintenance Centre facilitates the operation of schools, in defined cases working together with local governments having school property.

From January 2013 the financing of the public educational system has also changed. *In case of schools* the teachers' salary and in settlements with a population below 3000 the operational costs of schools are covered by the central budget, but in settlements with a population above 3000 they are covered by the local governments. (A local government with a population below 3000 could request taking part in financing the operation, and a local government more populous than that could also cancel the financing, taking into account its insufficient

resources.) *In the case of kindergartens* task financing similarly replaced the former norm-based financing. In the new system the average salary of kindergarten teachers and those helping their pedagogical work, including kindergarten teachers belonging to nationalities and their assistants is provided by the state budget. Moreover, to sustain the buildings and infrastructure of the institutions and to pay the salaries of technical workers, a further resource is necessary, which is provided by the Act on the Central Budget in the form of an allowance for operating kindergartens. In 2013 this amounted to HUF 54,000/person/year. Resulting from the above measure the risk of financing, which was characteristic of the nationality school system in recent years, is significantly reduced, and the burden on local governments to provide public education became much smaller than before. The uniform professional guidance can contribute to increasing the quality of education even in the field of education of nationalities.

From 1 October 2013 the financing of public educational institutions not run by the State, amongst them institutions run by nationality self-governments has also changed. Nationality self-governments can apply for salary grants, where eligibility is counted on the basis of fewer pupils per teacher (1 teacher per 8 pupils) than at other non-state run institutions. At the same time, they are also eligible for an operational funding of HUF 40,000/pupil/quarter year, just like the churches. Institutions with few pupils may get further supplementary funding on the grounds of a public education agreement. Based on current calculations a public education agreement should be signed in the case of three operating entities (the National Self-Government of Romanians in Hungary, the National Slovenian Self-Government and the Slovak National Self-Government of Mátraszentimre). Non-state operating entities running nationality public educational institutions could still apply for supplemental funding on the basis of a ministerial decree to run their institutions in 2013. Based on the above, 9 operators (all nationality self-governments with one exception) were awarded a total funding of HUF 469,950,000 for operating their 23 institutions. This opportunity is not available any more from 2014, however, the new financing system guarantees the resources consequentially lost. The change in the form of financing also provides resources for the maintenance of supplemental nationality education. In this case salary grants should be calculated based on 1 teacher per every 21 pupils (because these schools do not teach other subjects than the native language and the national culture), and they are also entitled to operational funding. As a result of the above measures, the secure operation of public educational institutions run by nationality self-governments is still granted.

(7) Regarding the development of textbooks and teaching aids in the budgetary period of 2007-2013, a separate tender was planned for helping nationality students' education and teaching. The tender (code: SoROP 3.4.1.A) was published in two rounds with the aim of developing the students' and teachers' aids applied in nationality education and developing the details of extension trainings for teachers. The consortia of nationality public educational institutions and national minority self-governments could take part in the tender. On the tender announced in 2009, HUF 28-35 million was awarded to those taking part. The new tender announced in 2012 offered an opportunity to continue the development programme. In the first round there was a possibility to win a significant amount of money: for nationalities with a smaller population it was maximum HUF 50 million and for those with a larger population this amount was maximum HUF 200 million, which allows for the increase of the pace of development. The tender helped produce new elementary school and secondary school textbooks, workbooks, methodological guides, teachers' books, tools for measurement and evaluation and digital study materials, which contribute to increasing the efficiency of Roma nationality education. The agreements have been signed and the participants have two years to implement their programmes.

(8) It should be emphasized considering the regulation, structure and content of nationality education that the new Fundamental Law still declares the right to teaching nationalities in their native language, therefore, the new Act on the Rights of Nationalities and the Act on Public Education ensures, as before, the organisation and maintenance of nationality education and teaching in accordance with the needs of the nationality communities, in a framework of native language or bilingual kindergarten education, and native language, bilingual, language teaching or supplemental nationality education. After the acceptance of the new laws on the rights of nationalities and on national public education, in parallel with the new regulation of the National Core Curriculum (hereinafter: NCC), there was a need to revise and correct the rules defining nationality kindergarten and school education (the guidelines of kindergarten education for nationalities and those of school education for nationalities; nationality framework curricula).

The new guideline was supplemented with regulations and sample documents to initiate the organisation of nationality kindergarten education, school education and teaching and also to report the need for nationality education and teaching. This guideline contains the detailed rules of supplementary nationality education (before, these were defined by the act on public education and the ministerial decree on the operation of educational institutions). Among the forms of nationality kindergarten education and school education, the concepts of kindergartens responsible for Roma/Gypsy cultural education and the Roma/Gypsy nationality education were defined more precisely. As a separate form of education, Roma/Gypsy cultural education is offered in kindergartens in Hungarian, which is the native language of the majority of the Roma/Gypsy community; and Roma/Gypsy nationality education is offered in the Hungarian language. Kindergartens offering education in Romani or Boyash as well as schools teaching Romani or Boyash should be considered an integral part of nationality native language and nationality bilingual kindergartens and as nationality native language, nationality bilingual or nationality language teaching schools.

The timeframe for teaching nationality culture and, in schools teaching nationality languages, the timeframe set for teaching the native language has changed. In the first four years and also in the second four years of elementary schools 1 lesson weekly was set for teaching nationality culture; the possibility of integrated education is no longer available and this subject is taught in the native language – except for the Roma nationality. In schools teaching nationality languages the timeframe for teaching the native language is set at 5 lessons weekly in the decree, and it is so not just in the case of German but also in the cases of the Slovenian, Croat, Romanian, Slovak and Serb nationalities. The timeframe for teaching Romani and Boyash has increased from two lessons a week to 3 lessons a week and the total timeframe may not be taught cumulated in one block any more. Taking into account the draft of the new NCC regarding the teaching of Hungarian and a living foreign language, new detailed development tasks set up within the structure of the NCC and defined for each nationality group came into effect and were published in Hungarian and in nationality languages.

Decree 17/2013 (of 01.03.) of the Ministry of Human Capacities on the Publication of the Guidelines for the Kindergarten Education of Nationalities and the Guidelines for the School Education of Nationalities, as well as the preparation of the framework curricula for nationalities was performed taking into consideration the opinions of nationality educational professionals, and these were published in line with Section 5 (9) of the Act on National Public Education and in agreement with the national minority self-governments.

(9) Regarding international connections in view of nationality education, it has been an important objective of the portfolio responsible for education to maintain bilateral connections with the mother countries of nationalities in the recent period. There are many fields in nationality education which require professional help from the mother countries/native language countries to reach adequate quality. In recent years we continually tried to achieve that bilateral inter-ministerial agreements offer Hungarian scholarship opportunities for the Hungarian youth belonging to nationalities to study full time in the mother countries, to offer opportunities for partial trainings and PhD courses, for language specific, methodology and terminology-based extension trainings for teachers, to encourage the children belonging to nationalities to participate in programmes in the mother countries, and to have an opportunity to receive instructors, guest teachers from these countries as well as to import textbooks and methodological guides from them. Based on the agreements, the costs of travel were paid by the sending party, while the costs of living abroad were paid by the receiving party.

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.**

(1) The Act on the Rights of Nationalities and the Act on Public Education allow nationality self-governments to take over the administration of nationality public educational institutions established by other sustaining entities, and also to establish and operate public educational institutions themselves. On the one hand, the status of nationality education and the opportunities for establishing or taking over institutions were summarised in Chapter II; on the other hand, in Chapter II in the report written about Article 12, we have already demonstrated that the regulation guarantees the availability of resources necessary to sustain the ever growing institutions. A regulation promoting performance stipulates that the movable assets and real estates serving the purpose of performing the tasks should be given to the nationality self-governments operating the public educational institution so that they could use them free of charge.

We consider it is also important to mention that the law grants widespread rights to the nationality self-governments concerned to review and protect the nationality education and teaching carried out in nationality public educational institutions run by local governments and the state-owned institution operating entity. The most important decisions regarding nationality education and teaching (foundation, termination, reorganisation, deciding its name, planning and modifying its budget, as well as commissioning its leader and cancelling his/her assignment) should be made in agreement with the nationality self-governments.

Article 14

- . 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.

(1) Regarding the questions in the Article of the Framework Convention evaluated here, the changes concerning the reporting period and governmental decisions, information was supplied in Chapter I and Chapter II of the present Country Report and also in Chapter III in the notice concerning Article 12 of the Framework Convention. In the following we will only give supplemental information about the above topics.

The act on the rights of nationalities declares that children belonging to a nationality can participate, based on their parents' (guardians') decision, in nationality kindergarten education and in nationality school education and teaching. It also stipulates that in case there is a need from the parents (guardians) of at least eight children and students who belong to the same nationality, nationality education must be organised, and if their number is below that, supplemental nationality education should be organised. The above regulations permit all 13 nationalities to organise nationality education as part of the public educational system.

During the ratification of the Charter for Languages Hungary, regarding the eight languages listed in the assertion document (German, Slovak, Slovenian, Croatian, Serb, Romanian, Romani and Boyash), accepted its obligations concerning education, and at the same time it tries to meet the conditions of teaching in the native language of all nationalities living in our country.

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.

(1) In Chapter II of the Country Report information was supplied under a separate heading about the legal and practical issues of involving the nationalities in administering any topics concerning them. We mentioned the changes in the period after the submission of the third country report affecting the operation of the nationality self-government system.

We have already reflected on the three-level nationality self-government system in Chapter II of the present Country Report. The protection and representation of the interests of people belonging to nationalities is in the responsibility of municipal, regional and national minority self-governments which undoubtedly have the strongest representational power; this is clearly represented in the Act on the Rights of Nationalities. The Nationality Act provides the most powerful tools of the so called co-decision authorisations for the local and national self-governments but we also have to mention the two novelties of the Nationality Act in this respect: The Act is based on the principle that only the national communities with a real community background – supported by census data – should be allowed to organise settlement-based nationality self-governments. In settlements where no municipal nationality self-government is organised, the regional level (and where this is not available, the country-wide) nationality self-governmental level fulfils the tasks of interest representation and protection, and local nationality non-governmental organisations represent the local interests.

According to the Act on the Rights of Nationalities, a nationality self-government on the settlement and regional level can only be established in certain cases, but on a country-wide level these can be created even if the nationality in question establishes self-governments at the local level in very small numbers. The purpose of this is that the continuity of the representation of every nationality and the continuous operation of their network of nationality self-government institutions should be ensured. But the Nationality Act clarifies that the scene of the life of nationality communities is the settlement, and the needs of nationalities there are articulated by the people living there and the smaller and bigger communities and organisations, and the non-governmental organisations can communicate them adequately.

The Nationality Act states that nationality self-governments manage their assets independently at each of the three levels, in agreement with the concepts of separate legal entity and self-governance, and that all the three levels have a unified approach to act as budgetary institutions and so to connect to the state budgetary system. All three levels of the nationality self-government system are parts of the local government sub-system. The incorporated associations of nationality self-governments, as well as the budgetary organizations founded and managed by the nationality self-governments belong to the local government sub-system.

The legal control of nationality self-governments was managed by public administration offices before 1 January 2009, according to Articles 60/H and 60/J of Act LXXVII 1993 on the Rights of National and Ethnic Minorities. After that, in the period from 1 January 2009 to 1 September 2010, there was no legal control of local governments and nationality self-governments. The legal control of nationality self-governments together with the legal control of local governments restarted on 1 September 2010. The legal control of local and self-governments after the acceptance of the Fundamental Law of Hungary was taken over from the public administration offices by the metropolitan and county government offices (hereinafter: Government Offices) as their successors. After the Act on the Rights of Nationalities and Act CLXXXIX of 2011 on the Local Governments of Hungary (hereinafter Local Government Act) entered into force, the control of local and minority self-governments significantly changed, and the legal control of local governments and nationality self-governments was replaced by legal supervision.

The purpose of conducting legal supervision in Government Offices is to guarantee the lawful operation of the representative body, the committees, subordinated governments, mayors and chief mayor of the local governments, the chairmen of the county general assemblies, their associations and the notaries. The Government Offices examine the legality of the organization, operation, decision-making procedure and decisions of the local government. However, the legal supervision process does not cover the decisions of local governments made within their own discretion, as in these cases only the lawfulness of the decisions may be examined. According to Section 146 (2) of the new Nationality Act, the Government Office also performs the legal supervision of nationality self-governments, with the content and method identical with the legal supervision of local governments, but with the exception of making up for any missing decision of the nationality self-government (act supplementation). Therefore, if the Government Office observes a breach of law in the course of the proceedings of the nationality self-government, it can use the methods of legal supervision defined in the Local Government Act besides the responsibilities and authorities defined in the Fundamental Law.

Based on the data collection activities of the National Statistical Data Collection Programme (hereinafter OSAP), in 2012 there were a total of 454 cases when legality warnings were issued against nationality self-governments. These were as follows divided into quarter year periods:

2012 1st quarter: 162 cases; 2012 2nd quarter: 184 cases; 2012 3rd quarter: 57 cases; 2012 4th quarter: 51 cases. Based on the OSAP data from the first half year of 2013 there were a total of 231 cases when legality warnings were issued: 2013 1st quarter: 123 cases; 2013 2nd quarter: 108 cases.

(2) Grants and supports to nationalities can be grouped as follows: central budget funding; supports from the subsystem of the local government budget; funds from the mother country; and other incomes. In the following a detailed summary will be given of the individual elements of supports for nationalities. Nationality initiatives can be subsidised from the central budget in a form of normative funding, funding through a tender and individually upon the following grounds:

- the operational support of media sustained and backed by national minority self-governments;
- the operational support of institutions sustained by national minority self-governments;
- the operational support of nationality non-governmental organisations;
- the operational support and the support of the development of nationality institutions;
- support for the identity and teaching of nationality culture;
- the Award for Nationalities;
- the Scholarship for Nationalities;
- the support of extended tasks in connection with taking over nationality institutions;
- interventional funding for local governments in trouble but not at their fault (e.g.. change of financial background and subsidies);
- as an international obligation in the minutes of joint minority commissions, to fund the obligations of the Hungarian party;
- the operation of nationality educational and cultural institutions;
- providing funds for the nationality self-governments of settlements and regions.

The primary duty of local governments is to cooperate with nationalities and their organisations. Several laws provide guaranties for this purpose: exercising the right of advice and agreement in relation to the decisions of local governments that affect the rights of nationalities; cooperation agreements with nationality self-governments containing obligatory elements, whereby the local government provides infrastructure to the nationality self-governments.

Local governments may make decisions in their annual budget about providing funds in various forms to the local nationality communities and their representative bodies. These funds are not norm based but always depend on the actual budget of a given local government, therefore, the budget has great influence on the volume of tasks the nationality self-government can fulfil.

The nationality communities and interest advocacy bodies maintain close relationship with their mother countries. It is an important strategic objective for every state to support communities that live abroad but are part of their nation. The individual states regulate the provision of funds. Hungary operates mixed nationality commissions in each of its relations with the surrounding countries – with the exception of Austria –, and these commissions only make partial decisions about the direction of granting the support. The amount of supports is unknown for the Hungarian party, therefore, it does not allow the comparison of supports based on parity.

The nationality organisations – similar to other organisations operating in Hungary –, may have incomes in connection with the duties they serve and the business activities they have. The ability of nationality organisations to represent their interests and hold together the community depends greatly on what budgetary resources they can allocate to the implementation of specific nationality objectives. The income method and the volume of the public duties of the local governments also correlate.

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.

According to the Nationality Act Hungary prohibits every policy or behaviour which will result in or aims at a nationality being absorbed in a majority nation or being segregated or separated from it; which aims at altering the proportion of national or ethnic minorities at areas inhabited by them; which persecutes, intimidates a nationality or an individual belonging to it on the grounds of nationality affiliation, or degrades their living conditions, obstructs exercising their rights; or which aims at a forceful expatriation or resettlement of a nationality. Hungary also applies this principle in international relations, and aims at protecting against policies resulting in the above listed outcomes by means of the international law and with international treaties. (See Sections 9 (1)-(2) of the Act.)

Article 17

. 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.

The Act on the Rights of Nationalities declares that the persons belonging to nationalities have a right to maintain contacts with the state and community institutions of their mother countries and nations speaking their language as well as with national minorities living in other countries. In the following we will summarize the answers of the national minority self-governments that reported about their contact networks in their mother countries and around the world, regarding the reporting period.

- (1) The National Self-Government of Germans in Hungary (hereinafter NSGGH) maintains close connections with German speaking countries and regions, the European German minority organisations, and with other minorities of the German speaking countries having different native languages. The official representative body of the

German nationality in Hungary is also a member of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (hereinafter FUEN), the working group of the German peoples' groups operating within the organisation, and it has regular representation on their congresses. Based on the Common Declaration (Agreement on the Support of German Minority and the German Language in Hungary) signed in 1987 and renewed in 1992, Germany regularly supports the ethnic German community in Hungary. The supports are granted on the basis of consultation with NSGGH, are organized by Goethe Institute and the competent ministries of the provinces offering the support, and are coordinated by the Permanent Sub-Committee of the Hungarian-German Cultural Joint Committee and the German Pedagogical Institute in Hungary. The Subcommittee meets every two years; the last meetings were held in 2011 in Ulm and in 2013 in Pécs.

The National Slovak Self-Government (hereinafter NSS) and the Slovak Republic maintain widespread connections on a daily basis. Regular and close cooperation is mainly in place with the Office for Slovaks Living Abroad, the Ministry of Education and the representative bodies in Hungary (embassy, the main consulate in Békéscsaba), and with the Slovak Institute in Budapest. The NSS, together with seven other Slovak organisations in Hungary, is also a member of the World Association of Slovaks Living Abroad. The president of NSS was voted for vice-president of the World Association in 2012. The NSS is also actively engaged in the activity of FUEN: last it participated in the seminar of the Slavic section of FUEN with its delegation in Kosice on 7-9 November 2013. The Slovak non-governmental organisations operating in Hungary also have widespread connections with Slovak nationality organisations in the mother country and in other countries. This is ascertained by jointly organised research programmes, jointly published magazines and common camps for children, etc.

Both countries are member states in the Schengen area, which greatly helps extend the relationships and cooperation of the local Slovenian communities, self-governments, the Association of Slovenes in Hungary and the population itself with the cultural and business organisations and institutions of the neighbouring mother country. In the reporting period, with help from Szlovén Vidék Közhasznú Nonprofit Ltd., major investments were made on projects supported by the Slovenian–Hungarian Cross-border Cooperation Programme in the Slovenian populated Rába area, and these investments significantly promote the sustainable and balanced development of the Rába area, and improve the living conditions of its population, including the continued preservation of the Slovenian nationality there. Besides the EU projects, there is a project specifically supported by the mother country (Slovenia) to set up a model farm in the Rába area. The two decades long fruitful cooperation and good neighbourly relationship between Hungary and the Slovenian Republic, as well as the various bilateral agreements play a major role in the connections with the mother country. One of the most significant among them is the treaty signed in 1992 on providing additional rights to the Slovenian national minority living in Hungary and the Hungarian national minority community living in the territory of the Slovenian Republic. The most important partners of the Association of Slovenes in Hungary are the Office Responsible for Slovenians Abroad in Ljubljana, the Slovenian Cultural Public Foundation and the Slovenian Olympic Committee. The National Slovenian Self-Government and the Association of Slovenes in Hungary signed a cooperation agreement with the Mura area (Gorichko) mayor offices and the leader of the National Community of the Mura Area Hungarian Self-Government in order to advance cross-border relationships. The aim of the cooperation is to advance the cross-border cultural and economic ties. In the last decade well founded relationships were established with the top associations of Slovenians living in Austria, Italy and Croatia as well (Slovenian Minority Coordination).

The widespread connections of the National Croat Self-Government (hereinafter NCSG) and the non-governmental organisations of the Croat nationality with the bodies and associations in the mother country also continued to develop in the reporting period; the network of twin town connections of settlements inhabited by Croats has been growing. The Croat community in Hungary delegated two people to the Consultation Body of Croats Living Abroad founded by the Croatian Government in 2012. The expansion and development of state-level relationships between Hungary and Croatia has a good effect on other connections. The Association of Croats in Hungary has been a standing member of the Hungarian-Croatian joint consultative committee ever since its foundation, where it can represent the interests of the Croat nationality non-governmental area in Hungary. The Pag Island holiday home on the Adriatic, donated by the mother country, supported, among others, by the actual Hungarian governments and managed under NCSG provides a scene for many programmes.

Following the EU accession of Romania, the Romanian nationality in Hungary has no more obstructions in maintaining contacts in the mother country. The main consulates of Romania in Gyula and Szeged and the Romanian cultural institutions in Budapest and Szeged give priority to strengthen the connections of the Romanian community living in this area with their mother country. The national self-government takes part in the development and implementation of the EU tenders and plans of the Hungarian and Romanian border counties. Ambitions appeared within the Romanian nationality community for economic and business cooperation.

St. Adalbert Union, acting dutifully for the Polish community in Hungary, always invites the high-ranking representatives of Poland, besides the state leaders of Hungary, to the biggest Polish celebrations held in Hungary, and in the reporting period it worked together with the Polish Senate, the Foreign Ministry and the Embassy.

Further information regarding the international connections of nationalities living in Hungary is provided in Article 18.

Article 18

. 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.

The information related among others to this Article is provided in the note to Article 2 of the Framework Convention. In the following information is supplied about further events in connection with the present Article.

(1) The basic institutions of bilateral cooperation affecting the connections of nationalities living in Hungary with their mother country have since 1992 been the minority joint consultative committees (hereinafter MJC) founded on the grounds of bilateral national minority protection agreements. The intergovernmental minority joint consultative committees were created by Hungary and the neighbouring countries (Croatia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine) to mutually ensure and protect the rights of national minorities; their duties are to analyze and evaluate the status of nationalities and national minorities; to specify recommendations for relevant inter-state cooperation, and to follow-up on their implementation. All the bilateral minority joint consultative committees held sessions in the

past few years. There they considered the priorities for preserving the identities of the specific nationalities and developing their cultural autonomy.

(2) Hungary and Croatia signed an agreement for the protection of minorities on 4 April 1995, and the *Hungarian-Croatian Minority Joint Consultative Committee* was created and has been working based on this agreement, having had its twelfth session in Budapest on 28 November 2012. During the talks about the bilateral protection of minorities and the current questions about the situation of Hungarian and Croatian national minority communities living in these countries the Parties reached an agreement regarding the previous but still valid recommendations affecting the Croatian minority in Hungary. Consultation has been ongoing in several topics since the session between the Hungarian and Croatian co-chairmen and secretaries. The Croatian partner plans to organize the next session by spring 2014.

(3) The *Special Joint Consultative Committee on National Minorities of the Hungarian-Romanian Intergovernmental Joint Commission for Active Cooperation and Partnership* was founded in 1996, however, its operation is not without difficulties. According to the agreement, its sessions are held every year alternately in Hungary and Romania, however, the sessions many times closed without signing consensus-based minutes. Its last session (8th Session) was held in Budapest on 1 June 2011. The minutes of the 8th Session of the MJC and the statement of the recommendations and obligations based on it are still being finalized.

(4) The system of recommendations accepted on the sessions of the *Hungarian-Serbian Joint Committee on Minorities* (which was set up in 2004 based on an agreement on the protection of the rights of Serbs living in the Republic of Hungary and the Hungarian minority living in Serbia and Montenegro, and signed in 2002) serves the purpose of improving the situation of Serbs living in Hungary and strengthening their cultural autonomy. The Joint Committee on Minorities held its fourth session in Budapest on 20 June 2011 with the co-chairmanship of the deputy secretary of state responsible for national politics of the Ministry of Public Administration and Justice and the president of the Government of the Autonomous Region of Serbia and Vojvodina. In spite of the fact that the sessions of the Joint Committee are being held irregularly, the recommendations and the government decisions based on them are implemented continuously by the Hungarian party.

(5) The *Hungarian-Slovak Joint Committee on Minorities* started its operation in 1999 based on an agreement on good neighbourly relationships and friendly cooperation between the Republic of Hungary and the Slovak Republic signed in 1995. The Joint Committee on Minorities held its tenth session in Bratislava on 2 February 2011, which was accepted by the Government in its decision 1319/2011 (of 20.09.). The subsequent, eleventh session was held in Budapest on 7 November 2012. The recommendations made on the sessions significantly improve Slovak-Hungarian bilateral relationships in the realm of national minority politics. The Joint Committee on Minorities stated that the recommendations will be implemented, however, most of them are not a one-time task but require recurrent and continuous actions. The session of the MJC held in Bratislava on 11 December 2013 was not successful, and no consensus was reached with regard to the text of the minutes.

(6) The *Hungarian-Slovenian Joint Committee on Minorities* began its operation based on the friendship and cooperation agreement signed between the two countries in 1992 and the agreement for minority protection signed in the same year, according to Government Decision 2051/1995 (of 03.03.) on the Establishment of a Hungarian-Slovenian Joint Committee on

Minorities, in 1995. This is one of the most active joint committees where cooperation is continuous. The Joint Committee on Minorities held its twelfth session in Budapest on 15 June 2011, which was accepted by the Government in its Decision 1326/2012 (of 07.09.), and the following thirteenth session was held in Ljubljana on 26 September 2012. The last, fourteenth session of the Committee was held in Szentgotthárd in October 2013. In its sessions, the Committee reviews the current issues of the two minorities living in each other's countries, having regard to the principles and provisions of the agreement on ensuring the special rights of the Slovenian national minority living in the territory of Hungary and the Hungarian national community living in the territory of the Slovenian Republic. It makes new recommendations for the two governments based on experience.

(7) The *Hungarian-Ukrainian Joint Committee on Minorities* was founded on the basis of the Declaration on the principles of cooperation in ensuring the rights of the national minorities living in the Republic of Hungary and in the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, signed in 1991. The Committee held its last, fifteenth session in Budapest in December 2011, however, no signed minutes resulted as an outcome. After the visit of the Ukrainian Prime Minister the Parties agreed on continuing the session, and the draft of the new minutes is being reconciled.

(8) Besides the Joint Committees on Minorities listed and introduced above, the *Standing Subcommittee of the Hungarian-German Cultural Joint Committee* works according to an intergovernmental agreement; its projects serve as a framework for German nationality education in Hungary, and it helps in Germany to teach German as a foreign language in Hungary. Besides, the above mentioned *bilateral interstate educational agreements* stipulate the quota for participating in full-time and part-time training in the mother country, the criteria for joining extension trainings for minority teachers, the criteria for accepting lecturers and guest teachers from the mother country and the options for participating in programmes in the mother countries (these issues were discussed in the evaluation of Article 12).

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.

Hungary did not apply restrictions and limitations in connection with the content of the Framework Convention in the reporting period.

Articles 20–23:

We have no relevant remarks regarding the articles of the Framework Convention quoted here, with an affect on the reporting period.

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.

Hungary did not declare limitations on the territorial scope of the Framework Convention in the reporting period.

IV. ANSWERS TO THE SPECIAL QUESTIONS ARISING FROM PECULIAR NATIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

The Advisory Committee did not raise any questions specifically about Hungary or the conditions of nationalities living in Hungary in the reporting period, therefore, no issues arising as a result of circumstances in Hungary are addressed in this Report. At the same time, as mentioned in several points in the previous chapters, after the publication of the Nationality Act accepted in 2011, Hungary was in the focus of domestic and international attention. The new regulation was thoroughly examined, and found to be democratic, among others by the Venice Commission.

Beside the national legal regulations, the peculiar circumstances in Hungary were also presented through our international commitments. The monitoring committee of the Charter for Languages came to Hungary for review twice during the five years of the reporting period: first between 4-5 June 2009 and then between 10-12 September 2012. Based on these surveys and on-site reviews, and also on the country-reports submitted beforehand,– the Hungarian legal regulations and the actual conditions of the national minorities meet the international standards and the peculiar Hungarian circumstances.

ATTACHMENT

1.) The Fundamental Law of Hungary (25 April 2011)

Available in Hungarian:

http://njt.hu/cgi_bin/njt_doc.cgi?docid=140968.248458

Available in English:

http://www.kormany.hu/download/2/93/11000/THE%20FUNDAMENTAL%20LAW%20OF%20HUNGARY_1.pdf

2.) Act CLXXIX of 2011 on the Rights of Nationalities

Available in Hungarian:

http://njt.hu/cgi_bin/njt_doc.cgi?docid=139819.248558

Available in English:

<http://www.kormany.hu/download/e/f6/c0000/Act%20CLXXIX%20of%202011%20on%20the%20Rights%20of%20Nationalities.zip#!DocumentBrowse>

3.) Act CCIII of 2011 on the Election of Members of Parliament (Electoral Act)

Available in Hungarian:

http://njt.hu/cgi_bin/njt_doc.cgi?docid=142940.245262

4.) Act XXXVI of 2013 on Electoral Procedure (Electoral Procedure Act)

Available in Hungarian:

http://njt.hu/cgi_bin/njt_doc.cgi?docid=159995.253283

5.) Act XXXVI of 2012 on the National Assembly (National Assembly Act)

Available in Hungarian:

http://njt.hu/cgi_bin/njt_doc.cgi?docid=148174.253168

6.) Act L of 2010 on the Election of Local Government Representatives and Mayors

Available in Hungarian:

http://njt.hu/cgi_bin/njt_doc.cgi?docid=131705.243464

7.) Act CXXV of 2003 on Equal Treatment and the Promotion of Equal Opportunities

Available in Hungarian:

http://njt.hu/cgi_bin/njt_doc.cgi?docid=76310.245121

8.) Fifth Periodical Country Report on the Implementation in Hungary of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

Available in English:

http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/education/minlang/Report/PeriodicalReports/HungaryPR5_en.pdf

The current, fifth periodic Country Report includes, as attachments, further legal documents that can be used as supplements to the evaluation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.