



Strasbourg, 10 June 2009

DH-MIN(2009)004

**COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON ISSUES RELATING TO
THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES
(DH-MIN)**

**A QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE
„DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLIC FINANCIAL SUPPORT (SUBSIDIES) FOR
NATIONAL MINORITY ASSOCIATIONS”**

1. Please give the following information for each national minority:
 - description/name and size of the national minority;
 - number of minority associations receiving subsidies per year (including umbrella associations).
2. Do you distribute public subsidies to national minorities' associations? Which budget (national, regional, local) is used for this purpose?
3. Who determines the total amount of the subsidies to be distributed to national minorities' associations (parliament, public administration)¹?
4. Which criteria is used to determine the amount of the subsidy for each national minority association? Is the number of persons affiliated with a national minority one of the criteria?
5. Who decides on the allocation of the subsidy to a minority association within a national minority and are there any criteria, priorities or guidelines or advisory bodies?
6. Is the distribution of subsidies made by public administration, outsourced institutions or by minority associations? Which advantages or disadvantages are associated with your own national system; which experience have you encountered and what should be avoided?
7. Is the distribution of these subsidies made by a contract or by a formal decision of an authority?
8. Please indicate the purpose(s) of the subsidies. Which targets/priorities are favoured when attributing subsidies? Are there any guidelines for national minority associations and/or public administration or institutions which grant the subsidy contract or subsidy decision?
9. How concrete should the subject/object/topic of the financial support request be? Is there a distinction between basic subsidies and project subsidies? In the affirmative, please clarify.
10. Are the minority associations obliged to set up corresponding financial accounts? When, to whom, and in which manner (submission of invoices or only written reports or both)? Is the reporting controlled by the same authority or institution which is responsible for the subsidy contract or decision?
11. Are the lasting results, success, and efficiency of the subsidy awarded to minority associations evaluated?
12. Is public administration, or the institutions which are responsible for the subsidy contracts or decisions audited? Are there any reporting duties for public administration or institutions responsible for awarding these subsidies with regard to concrete actions (e.g. to the parliament, Audit Office or internal revision department)?

¹ Please specify only the organ responsible for determining the amount of the subsidies, and the procedure followed. Do not indicate the amount of the subsidies. Please do not include information on the financing of the education system for minorities.