



COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 12 October 2006

MIN-LANG/PR (2006) 4

EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES

**Third Periodical Report
presented to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
in accordance with Article 15 of the Charter**

CROATIA

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

**THIRD REPORT
BY THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
ON THE APPLICATION OF THE
EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR
MINORITY LANGUAGES**

Zagreb, August 2006

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Introductory part

According to the data provided by the Central Bureau of Statistics, in 2001 there were 331,383 members of national minorities in the Republic of Croatia, which accounted for 7.47% of the total population (4,437,460) and, in particular: Albanians 15,082 (0.34%), Austrians 247 (0.01%), Bosniacs 20,755 (0.47%), Bulgarians 331 (0.01%), Montenegrins 4,926 (0.11%), Czechs (10,510), (0.24%), Hungarians 16,595 (0.37%), Macedonians 4,270 (0.10%), Germans 2,902 (0.07%), Poles 567 (0.01%), Roma 9,463 (0.21%), Romanians 475 (0.01%), Russians 906 (0.02%), Ruthenians 2,337 (0.05%), Slovaks 4,712 (0.11%), Slovenes 13,173 (0.30 %), Serbs 201,631 (4.54%), Italians 19,636 (0.44%), Turks 300 (0.01%), Ukrainians 1,977 (0.04%), Vlachs 12 (0.00 %), Jews 576 (0.01%).

Article 15 of the Constitution (*Ustav Republike Hrvatske, Narodne novine*- The Official Gazette, nos. 56/90, 135/97, 8/98 – amended text, 113/00, 124/00 – amended text, and the Modification to the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia *Promjena Ustava Republike Hrvatske, Narodne novine* 28/01) guarantees equality for members of all national minorities. Under the provisions of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities in the Republic of Croatia (*Ustavni zakon o pravima nacionalnih manjina u Republici Hrvatskoj Narodne novine*, no. 155/02) (hereinafter: "the Constitutional Act"), the Republic of Croatia ensures the exercise of special rights and freedoms of members of national minorities which they enjoy individually or together with other persons belonging to the same national minority, and these are in particular: the use of their language and script, privately and in public use and in official use, education in the language and script which they use, the use of their signs and symbols, the right to profess one's religion and to establish religious communities together with other members of that religion, the right to cultural autonomy (by way of preservation, development and expression of one's own culture and the preservation and protection of one's cultural assets and tradition), the right to self-organising and association for the purpose of exercising mutual interests, as well as the right to access to the media and to perform activities of public information in the language which they use.

The Government of the Republic of Croatia directly implements policies relating to the rights of national minorities through the Office for National Minorities, ministries and other state authorities. Members of national minorities exercise the majority of their ethnic rights through the regular institutions of the Republic of Croatia, in the same way as members of the majority Croatian nation, whereby they are protected from assimilation and ghettoisation and can develop their cultural and ethnic identities with the objective of integration into Croatian society.

In accordance with the criteria for granting financial assistance, funds have been provided from the State Budget of the Republic of Croatia for various programmes of associations and institutions of national minorities and, in particular, for those related to information and publishing activities, cultural amateurism, cultural events, with a view to preserving the culture, language and customs of national minorities. Funding has also been provided for programmes arising from bilateral agreements, the programme for building civic trust and programmes aimed at creating prerequisites for providing cultural autonomy for Roma people, in an endeavour to help the Roma national minority to create conditions for its own cultural development.

Before 2002, funds for programmes of associations and institutions of national minorities were allocated by the Government of the Republic of Croatia, at the proposal of the Office for

National Minorities. Under the Constitutional Act, the Council for National Minorities was established, which is a new institution facilitating the participation of national minorities in the public life of the Republic of Croatia. The Council is entitled to propose to the Croatian Parliament and the Government of the Republic of Croatia to discuss the issues it deems important, especially those regarding the implementation of the Constitutional Act and special laws governing national minorities.

Pursuant to the Constitutional Act, the Council for National Minorities of the Republic of Croatia autonomously renders decisions on the allocation of funds provided from the State Budget for the needs of national minorities. Members of the Council are appointed by the Government of the Republic of Croatia for a four-year term and they include: seven members of national minorities from among the ranks of persons proposed by councils of national minorities; five members of national minorities from among the ranks of distinguished cultural, scientific, expert, religious employees from among the persons proposed by minority associations and other minority organisations, religious communities, legal persons and citizens who are members of national minorities. Eight representatives of national minorities in the Croatian Parliament are also members of the Council.

The Council has the right to provide opinions and proposals about the programmes of radio and television stations and propose the undertaking of economic, social and other measures in the areas that are traditionally or in a significant number inhabited by members of national minorities in order to preserve their existence in those areas. It may propose the undertaking of economic, social and other measures aimed at providing for the continued existence of national minorities. It has the right to request and acquire from the bodies of state authorities and bodies of local and regional self-government the necessary data and reports, and it may also invite to its sessions representatives of bodies of state authorities and representatives of local and regional self-government, whose competence includes the issues to be discussed. It co-operates with bodies of international organisations and institutions which deal with the issues of national minorities as well as with the competent bodies of parent countries of members of national minorities living in the Republic of Croatia.

The powers of the Council also include allocating funds that are provided from the State Budget for the needs of national minorities, other than the funds allocated by particular government departments as part of their scope of work. The beneficiaries of funds submit to the Council quarterly, semi-annual and annual reports on the expenditure of the funds received from the State Budget, and the Council informs the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Croatian Parliament about this.

General criteria are used to encourage and financially assist the implementation of cultural programmes and those concerning information and publishing activities of associations and institutions of members of national minorities, by which they express the need to preserve their ethnic, cultural and linguistic identity, which amongst other things contributes to the overall development of the Republic of Croatia and maintains the achieved level of exercise of ethnic rights that are important for members of national minorities. At the same time, special attention is paid to the cultural amateurism and cultural institutions because of their importance for the preservation of ethnic identity, and support is provided for programmes aimed at promoting tolerance and establishing multi-ethnic trust. Also, conclusions and provisions of the treaties and agreements on the protection of the rights of national minorities to which the Republic of Croatia is a party are implemented.

Special criteria are used to establish the same standards for all national minorities. The criteria used are those that are normally used when evaluating programmes applied in authorised institutions which organise and exercise professional supervision in respect of particular areas of social life. Decisions on the criteria for identifying associations whose activities are of interest for the Republic of Croatia are made taking into account the programmes of associations and in view of networks of cultural clubs and other branches of these associations at the local level. Programmes are analysed and evaluated on the basis of the previous overall results of associations and institutions, eligibility of those responsible for the implementation of programmes, whether prerequisites have been met for the realisation of the programme and the importance of the programme concerned for members of national minorities in a specific area, and in doing so account is taken of the considerations related to rational and cost-effective resource management. Precedence is given to the associations and programmes which bring together the majority of members of a particular national minority or those which have been achieving significant results in the preservation of ethnic and cultural identity for quite a while. Programmes are analysed by the Council on an on-going basis and the funds that have been approved are allocated on the basis of these analyses. In case of partial implementation of the programme, financial assistance is reduced in proportion to the part of the programme that has not been implemented.

In the State Budget of the Republic of Croatia, the funds for the realisation of programmes aimed at fostering and developing the cultural and national identity of national minorities are increased from year to year. Funding has been provided for these programmes as follows: 22 million HRK have been provided in the year 2004 and 24.5 million HRK in the year 2005. For 2006, funds have been provided in the State Budget of the Republic of Croatia for 69 associations and institutions of 19 national minorities to the amount of 29,700,000 HRK and, in particular, for programmes aimed at preserving and developing the cultural identity of national minorities, which is a 21% increase from the preceding year.

The Office for National Minorities of the Government of the Republic of Croatia, in collaboration with the Council for National Minorities, organised training seminars for members of all national minorities on the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union. These seminars were held from 29 June to 4 July 2005 in Mali Lošinj and from 5 to 7 July 2006 in Zadar. Young members of national minorities were informed about the international documents ratified by the Republic of Croatia and, among these, special attention was given to the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. A presentation on this document was made by a member of the Advisory Committee for the Implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

On 28 June 2006, the Ministry of Justice, in its capacity as the co-ordinator of the preparation of the Report on the Application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, organised in co-operation with the Council of Europe a one-day seminar on the Recommendations by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. At this seminar, presentations were made by representatives of the Committee of Experts on the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, the representative of the Czech minority in the Croatian Parliament and the Croatian representative in the Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. The purpose of the seminar was to provide information about the Recommendations by the Committee of Ministers and views of the Committee of Experts as regards the preparation of the Third Report. As well as by representatives of the competent authorities, the seminar was also attended by representatives of the counties where national minorities predominantly live, and by representatives of

associations of national minorities to whom the Charter applies, and also by representatives of the Slovene national minority. The views expressed at the seminar were reflected in the observations made with regard to particular Recommendations below.

Parts I and II

The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, that is, the issues pertaining to the use of minority languages, are regulated by the Constitutional Act, the Act on the Use of Languages and Scripts of National Minorities in the Republic of Croatia (*Zakon o uporabi jezika i pisma nacionalnih manjina u Republici Hrvatskoj Narodne novine*, no. 51/00, 56/00 – correction) (hereinafter: "the Use of Minority Languages Act"), the Act on Education in the Languages and Scripts of National Minorities (*Zakon o odgoju i obrazovanju na jeziku i pismu nacionalnih manjina Narodne novine*, no. 51/00) (hereinafter: "the Education Act").

The implementation of the established legal framework for the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages is the responsibility of the Government of the Republic of Croatia).

When it comes to the implementation of the Use of Minority Languages Act, the responsibility of the Government of the Republic of Croatia consists in exercising supervision over the application of the Act, by both the state administration authorities, judicial authorities and local self-government units. Also, central state administration authorities are authorised to undertake the measures provided for by law in case any violations of its provisions have been committed in the course of its implementation.

When it comes to the Education Act, the Government of the Republic of Croatia is responsible for ensuring all the conditions prescribed for its application, through the competent Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, whereas the competent ministry carries out professional supervision over the exercise of particular forms of education in minority languages.

The following associations of national minorities were invited to co-operate in the preparation of the Third Report: the Democratic Union of Hungarians in Croatia (*Demokratski savez Mađara Hrvatske*), the Union of Ruthenians and Ukrainians in Croatia (*Savez Rusina i Ukrajinaca Hrvatske*), the Union of Slovaks (*Savez Slovaka*), the Italian Union (*Talijanska unija*), the Serbian Cultural Society "Prosvjeta" (*Srpsko kulturno društvo „Prosvjeta“*) the Union of Czechs in the Republic of Croatia (*Savez Čeha Republike Hrvatske*) and the Federation of Slovene Societies in the Republic of Croatia (*Savez slovenskih društava Republike Hrvatske*). However, it was only the Democratic Union of Hungarians in Croatia and the Union of Slovaks that responded to this invitation. The Union of Slovaks provided their observations, stating as follows:

"As members of an autochthonous national minority, Slovaks in the Republic of Croatia enjoy economic, social, cultural and other rights, as guaranteed by the Constitution. Members of the Slovak national minority in the Republic of Croatia may freely use their language and script privately and in public. So we also organise information and publishing activities using our own language and script. The Republic of Croatia and local authorities provide financial support for these activities.

As well as the Union of Slovaks, members of the Slovak national minority in the Republic of Croatia also have the Councils of the Slovak National Minority. As regards these Councils, it is necessary to train and educate those on the Councils in order for them to become aware of their actual tasks. It appears to us that Council Presidents have poor communication with the Union and the parent country. Representatives of the Council for National Minorities and representatives of the Councils of the Slovak National Minority should co-operate more closely and jointly adopt plans, programmes and projects.

When it comes to schooling and education, members of the Slovak national minority are also among those who have the opportunity to receive education in their mother tongue. Children of members of the Slovak national minority receive education through Model C – what is called "the cultivation of language and culture". The Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of the Republic of Croatia offers assistance for education of children of members of our national minority. It provides financial support for the acquisition of textbooks, the "School in Nature" programme in Slovakia, the making of textbooks, teachers' groups, the work of advisers, the publication of children's works of art, organising the cultural event "Slovenčina moja". Also, what we would very much like to do is organise optional Slovak language classes in secondary schools in Ilok and Našice for students who are members of the Slovak national minority and are interested in attending optional Slovak language classes.

Speaking of judicial authorities, members of the Slovak national minority, at least as far as we know, have not made any requests for use of the Slovak language at courts or to be issued with documents in the Slovak language.

Our thanks go to the Republic of Croatia, which has made it possible for programmes in the Slovak language to be broadcast on local radio stations throughout Croatia. When it comes to the TV programme "Prizma", we are not satisfied with the programme itself or with the time and quality of broadcasting. Certain national minorities are given preference, whereas others are portrayed as if they either do nothing or only sing and dance. Those who are sent to the field are not professionals. The staff of the "Prizma" programme does not speak with the people who are competent to speak on behalf of particular national minorities. Irrelevant issues are discussed, whereas those that should be discussed are either not mentioned at all or are covered only marginally.

The Central Library of the Slovak National Minority, located in Našice, should be more active in following cultural events and presenting them to the public. It should co-operate more with the Executive Board of the Union of Slovaks, with which it should jointly adopt plans and projects.

We are happy to see that transfrontier cultural and economic exchange with the Slovak Republic has grown over the last several years, which brings more benefits for both nations.

The Executive Board of the Union of Slovaks in Croatia is appreciative of the Croatian Government's work and efforts in the realisation, promotion and development of minority rights. This is visible in all segments of our society, directly or through responsible departments and in co-operation with the legitimate representatives of national minorities."

The Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on the European Charter made in relation to the Second Report by the Republic of Croatia were discussed by the Committee for Human and Minority Rights of the Croatian Parliament. Following the conclusion by the Committee, the Government of the Republic of Croatia will bring this Report to the attention of the Committee.

When drafting the Report on the Application of the Constitutional Act, the Government of the Republic of Croatia noticed the problem of reduction in the number of speakers of minority languages, and of insufficient use of minority languages. In that Report the Government, accordingly, proposed a series of conclusions for the Croatian Parliament and, amongst other things, it assumed an obligation to design a campaign – in the forthcoming period and in co-operation with associations of national minorities – to support the use of minority languages in official proceedings and to raise national minorities' awareness of the need to preserve their own language, as an important element of their cultural identity. At the same time, supervision will be carried out to check whether the acts adopted by local self-government units are in line with the current legislation in this area and whether their bodies have acted in compliance with law.

Recommendations by the Committee of Ministers

Recommendation 1

In the light of the situation in the field and of the observations made by the Committee of Experts in its report, specify, in the third State periodical report, the municipal territories which are concerned by the application of Part III of the Charter and review the declaration appended to the instrument of ratification.

The Republic of Croatia considers that the languages used by national minorities in the Republic of Croatia are non-territorial languages. Namely, members of national minorities live in the whole territory of the Republic of Croatia and exercise some of their rights in the whole Croatian territory (education, issuing of personal identity cards), even though they live in greater numbers in the territories of particular counties.

Members of the Italian minority mostly live in the territory of the Istarska County, members of the Czech minority in the territory of the Bjelovarsko-bilogorska County, whereas members of the Hungarian, Slovak, Ruthenian and Ukrainian minorities are in the territory of Osječko-baranjska and Vukovarsko-srijemska counties. The Serbian minority for the most part lives dispersed in the whole territory of the Republic of Croatia, with a small share concentrated in particular parts of several counties (Šibensko-kninska, Zadarska, Ličko-senjska, Karlovačka, Sisačko-moslavačka, Vukovarsko-srijemska and Osječko-baranjska).

Namely, according to the 2001 Census, there were in total 150,792 speakers of 22 minority languages, as resulted from citizen's declaration on their mother tongue. Of that number, the European Charter applies to 7 languages which in total have 96,787 speakers.

Although the Government of the Republic of Croatia deems that the territory of application of minority languages is sufficiently defined, it will reconsider the statement given as regards the territory of application of minority languages in the forthcoming period and provide its opinion about this in its next report.

Recommendation 2

Promote awareness and tolerance vis-à-vis the regional or minority languages and the culture they represent as an integral part of the cultural heritage of Croatia, both in the general curriculum at all stages of education and in the media.

In relation to this recommendation, it is necessary to point out that the Government of the Republic of Croatia has recognised the need for conducting public media campaigns and also for providing all professional services with additional training in the importance of the exercise of rights of national minorities, representing an integral part of the Croatian society. So, a conclusion was proposed to this effect in the Report on the Application of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities in the Republic of Croatia and the Expenditure of State Budget Funds for 2005, which was submitted to the Croatian Parliament for adoption in June 2006.

Recommendation 3

Offer pre-school education in the Ruthenian and Ukrainian languages and, regarding primary and secondary education, at least the teaching of Ruthenian, Slovak and Ukrainian within regular school hours in the territories in which such languages are used.

When it comes to this recommendation, it is pointed out that pre-school education falls within the competence of local self-government and that counties, towns and municipalities have the right and obligation, provided for by law, to decide on the needs and interests of citizens living in their respective areas in connection with organising and implementing pre-school education programmes. Founders of kindergartens may be the Republic of Croatia, local government and self-government units, religious communities and other domestic legal and physical persons. The Ministry of Science, Education and Sports is responsible for approving programmes of work for kindergartens, when their founders so request.

The Pre-school Education Act regulates the right, but not the obligation, to provide education for pre-school children.

As regards the Ruthenian and Ukrainian languages, we would like to note that members of the Albanian, Czech, Macedonian, Hungarian, German, Austrian, Slovak, Serbian, Ruthenian and Ukrainian national minorities learn their mother tongue and culture according to Model C.

Beginning from autumn, the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports will adopt a uniform survey questionnaire for parents for the next school year and send it to schools. Principals of all schools will be obliged to offer this questionnaire to parents coming to enrol their children in the first grade, for them to be able to state their opinion regarding models of mother tongue teaching.

Recommendation 4

Develop a coherent strategy in the field of teacher training and provide adequate teaching materials for minority language education.

In the Republic of Croatia, due attention is paid, through the responsible ministry, to training for teaching staff on how to conduct classes in minority languages. Teacher training was implemented by the Institute for Education. In September 2005, the following advisers for conducting classes in the language and script of national minorities were elected: the adviser for classes in the Serbian language, the adviser for the Serbian language, the adviser for classes in the Italian language and the adviser for the Italian language, the adviser for the Hungarian language and for classes in the Hungarian language, the adviser for the Czech language and for classes in the Czech language and the adviser for the Slovak language and culture.

In the course of 2005, seminars were organised in which advisers for minority languages participated, whilst the Catalogue of Seminars for 2006/2007 includes many seminars for advisers for teaching minority languages.

Czech language teachers and Slovak language teachers also attend seminars in their parent countries and the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports co-finances their travel expenses for taking part in these professional improvement activities.

The Ministry also encourages and co-finances as follows: the making of textbooks in the languages of national minorities, translation of textbooks into the language and script of national minority, and acquisition of textbooks from parent countries for teaching in the languages of national minorities.

Recommendation 5

Take the necessary measures to ensure that the legal possibility for the speakers to use their regional or minority languages in relations with the relevant branches of the State administration is fully implemented in practice.

The Government of the Republic of Croatia will in particular see to it that the competent bodies of state administration take any necessary steps from their scope of work to make it possible for speakers of minority languages to fully exercise their right to equal official use of their language in accord with the law.

Recommendation 6

Take immediate action to implement the use of bilingual place-names in all relevant cases.

To ensure the implementation of this Recommendation, the Government of the Republic of Croatia will entrust the competent authorities with the task of supervising the application of provisions of the Use of Minority Languages Act in so far as they relate to the use of bilingual place-names, with a view to bringing the situation in line with legal regulations, where this has not been implemented in a consistent manner.

Recommendation 7

Grant the speakers a language-specific and more significant presence on public television and develop a presence on the regional radio stations also for those languages that do not yet benefit from it.

Through the system of monitoring the work of public television, work will continue on aligning the programme for national minorities with the standards established by the Charter.

Recommendation 8

Clarify the nature of the traditional presence of the Slovenian language in Croatia in co-operation with the speakers.

The position of the Slovene national minority in the Republic of Croatia is guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia and the existing legislation. Under the provisions of the Constitutional Act and the Use of Minority Languages Act, and under the regulations that were in force before their adoption, a minority language is introduced in official use: when the law so prescribes, when the minority concerned is present in the local unit in a specific percentage, in accordance with bilateral international agreements, by way of exercise of the acquired rights and in accordance with the statute of the local unit, unless statutory requirements have been met for obligatory introduction of a minority language in official use.

In no municipality or town does the Slovene national minority meet the requirements provided for by law for the introduction of the Slovene language in use. There is no local unit in which the Slovene language is in official use along with the Croatian language, nor have any requests ever been made in any local unit to introduce the Slovene language into official use. Slovene associations active in the Republic of Croatia have also never raised the issue of official use of the Slovene language.

When it comes to the education in minority languages, it is necessary to point out that the Republic of Croatia provides for all minorities, regardless of whether or not it undertook to apply the Charter in respect of them, various forms of education in their language, depending on the needs of particular national minorities. All forms of education are implemented with the financial support from the State Budget. As far as the Slovene minority is concerned, there have been no requests for the provision of any form of education in the Slovene language or for financial support by means of organising Slovene language teaching within Slovene associations. Following the well established practice concerning these issues, had any such request been filed, it would have been approved.

The position of the Slovene language and the interest of members of the Slovene minority for particular forms of use of the Slovene language is probably related to the fact that a significant number of ethnic Slovenes in Croatia are economic migrants. The number of members of the Slovene ethnic group in various parts of the Republic of Croatia is much higher than the number of Slovenes living along the border with the Republic of Slovenia. According to the 2001 Census, there were 13,173 members of the Slovene national minority in the Republic of Croatia, of which 938 lives in all towns and municipalities near the border with the Republic of Slovenia. The number of citizens who declared themselves as members of the Slovene minority in border towns and municipalities is as follows:

1. Međimurska County: 522

Towns/municipalities:

Mursko Središće: 83

Gornji Mihaljevec: 33

Podturen: 13

Štrigova: 82
 Sveti Martin na Muri: 51
 TOTAL: 262

2. Krapinsko-zagorska County: 439

Towns/municipalities:
 Klanjec: 22
 Hum na Sutli: 155
 Kraljevec na Sutli: 21
 Kumrovec: 14
 TOTAL: 212

3. Karlovačka County: 340

Towns/municipalities:
 Netretić: 6
 Žakanje: 44
 Ribnik: 4
 Bosiljevo: 31
 TOTAL: 85

4. Primorsko-goranska County: 2,883

Towns/municipalities:
 Čabar: 79
 Vrbovsko: 38
 Klana: 41
 Viškovo: 51
 TOTAL: 209

5. Istarska County: 2,020

Towns/municipalities:
 Buje: 157
 Oprtalj: 13
 TOTAL: 170

From what has been outlined above, it follows that members of the Slovene minority in the border area live in certain settlements in which they are able to exercise the right to use the Slovene language on the basis of the statute of the municipality or town to which their settlement belongs, whenever they make a request to this effect. The Slovene minority, as well as other minorities, may exercise its rights through its elected councils and representatives, whose task is to protect the rights of the relevant minority in its relations with local authorities. NATALIJA

Part III

Article 8 EDUCATION

From Article 8 paragraph 1

- subparagraph a) point iii
- subparagraph b) point iv
- subparagraph c) point iv
- subparagraph d) point iv
- subparagraph e) point ii
- subparagraph f) point ii
- subparagraph g)
- subparagraph h)

Members of the national minorities in the Republic of Croatia realise their right to education in the language and script of their national minority on the basis of the Constitution, the Constitutional Act, the Act on Education in the Language and Script of National Minorities and other legislation that regulates the way in which the right of a national minority to education in its own language and script is realized. Through the existing legal framework, the right to education of members of minorities in the language and script of the national minority is realized in the following manner:

Education in the language and script of national minorities is provided for the Italian, Serbian, Hungarian, Czech, Slovak, Ukrainian, Ruthenian, German, Austrian, Albanian and Macedonian national minorities based on one of three models (mentioned in the previous report, as well as below in this text). Training and education is provided from pre-school to higher education (kindergartens/day-care, elementary and high schools and institutions for higher education). For members of minorities who do not have institutionally organized forms of teaching, the language and script and specific character of the minority are cultivated through summer and winter schools (long-distance, consultative teaching) and other experimental educational programs.

An active policy is applied to educational standards pursuant to the Act on Education in the Languages and Script of National Minorities, meaning that classes are formed regardless of the number of pupils. Moreover, institutions are formed offering teaching in the language and script of national minorities. Teaching is conducted according to the plan and program of the Croatian school system. The entire teaching in the language and script of the national minority is within the school system, in that the specific features of the minority are provided for through teaching of the mother tongue and additional content in history, geography and art. In all the models, members of national minorities, as well as their own language, have a compulsory program of Croatian language and script with the same number of teaching hours as their mother tongue.

Religious education classes are organized pursuant to the valid teaching plan and program and agreements between religious communities and the Government of the Republic of Croatia.

The language of a minority as the language of the environment in educational institutions in the Croatian language and script is only realized by the Italian national minority. Members of

the minority have the right to organize institutions in their own language and script, and this right is realized by the Italian, Serb, Czech and Hungarian national minorities.

When teachers are being employed to teach in the language of a national minority, members of that national minority have priority in employment. If there is a shortage of professional staff it is possible to employ someone from the home country or a member of another nationality who must know the language and script of the national minority.

The Government of the Republic of Croatia, through the Ministry of Science, Education and Sport, has provided funds for production of original textbooks, and for translation and printing of approved textbooks. At the moment textbooks are only translated and printed for classes in elementary schools and for the cultivation of language and culture. No books for high schools have as yet been translated for any minority. The Ministry of Science, Education and Sport has given its approval for textbooks to be imported from the home country to be used in schools for lessons in the language and script of national minorities.

The funding provided for national minorities in the Republic of Croatia, is allocated for programs of printing and translation of textbooks, handbooks and books, summer and winter school programs, special programs for Roma and seminars and training for teaching staff.

Programs of pre-school education for children who are members of national minorities:

According to indicators from kindergartens and other legal entities running pre-school educational programs, and according to figures from social services in the offices of state administration in the counties, there is a total of 1,787 children of pre-school age from the national minorities involved in the pre-school system.

The number of children who are members of national minorities in pre-school facilities in Model A

Academic year 2005/06.

National minority	No. of children	No. of pre-school facilities	Note
Czechs	141	2	
Hungarians	150	6	
Serbs	326	3	
Italians	734	18	
TOTAL	1,351		

Elementary school and High school education

Elementary education of members of national minorities is conducted in schools which offer teaching in the language and script they use, under the conditions and in the manner prescribed by the Act on Education mentioned. Schools with teaching in the language and script of a national minority may be founded and training and education offered for a smaller number of pupils than that prescribed for schools with teaching in the Croatian language and script.

The following models of education exist for pupils from national minorities in elementary education:

Model A – the entire teaching program conducted in the language and script of the national minority with the compulsory teaching of the Croatian language. As a rule this model is used in separate institutions, but it may also be used in Croatian language institutions in separate classes with teaching in the language and script of the national minority. The Italian, Serb, Hungarian and Czech national minorities classes using Model A.

Model B – teaching is conducted in Croatian and the language and script of the national minority, i.e. dual language teaching. Science subjects are taught in Croatian and arts subjects in the language and script of the national minority, with the nationally specific group of subjects. This form of teaching as a rule takes place in schools with teaching in the Croatian language, but in separate classes. Model B is used by the Austrian and German national minorities.

Model C – the cultivation of language and culture as a separate teaching program offered as a teaching subject over five lessons a week with the entire program given in the Croatian language. The program covers lessons on the language and literature of the national minority, history, geography, music and art. Model C is used by the Serb, Slovak, Czech, Hungarian, Ruthenian, Ukraine and Albanian national minorities.

There is a total of 15 Roma assistants included in elementary education for whose work significant funding has been provided. The Ministry of Science, Education and Sport has approved the beginning of work and implementation of the teaching plan and program of the Lauder-Lea Deutsch Elementary School in Amruševa 4, Zagreb. This is a private school working within the Jewish Community in Zagreb. The Ministry of Science, Education and Sport has subsidised this school since the beginning of the 2004/05 academic year from the state budget as a private school with public authority.

In the context of elementary education, a total of 5,223 pupils are enrolled who are members of national minorities.

The education of pupils who are members of national minorities is founded on the provisions of the Secondary Education Act, which, alongside the general provisions that "... high school education is available to everyone under equal conditions, according to their ability, pursuant to this Act..." in Article 5 establishes the special rights of members of national minorities.

"Secondary education of children who are members of national minorities is offered according to the provisions of the Act on Education in the Language and Script of National Minorities, the provisions of this Act and other regulations." As well as the legal right, in practice the treatment of schools who have classes in the language of a national minority is

particularly tolerant, especially regarding the facilitates related to the organization of their work and enrolment in the first grade of secondary schools. For instance, in the text of the Decision on Enrolment of Pupils in High Schools, it states "... in the procedure to enrol pupils... if a sufficient number does not register for one of the programs offered, the pupils are to be offered registration for the other program for which they registered as an alternative in the enrolment procedure. Exceptionally, smaller groups may only be organized for some extremely deficit professional and rare occupations (e.g. clockmaker, goldsmith, gunsmith, smelter, carpenter, upholsterer, chimneysweep, coppersmith, hatter, furrier, musical instrument maker, glazier) in schools on islands, in schools in areas of special state concern, and schools with dual language teaching in Croatian and the languages of national minorities."

In line with the above, for pupils being educated in the language and script of a national minority, classes are organized with a small number of pupils, as seen in the table enclosed. When planning enrolment quotas for schools where teaching is organized in the Serbian language (Beli Manastir, Dalj and Vukovar) the rule is that a symmetrical "offer" is given of educational programs and classes on the same scale for enrolment of pupils of both the Serb national minority and for Croat pupils.

By the Decision on Elements and Criteria for Selection of Candidates for Enrolment in High Schools, pupils who are members of national minorities are provided with the opportunity to more easily enrol in terms of the number of points needed, that is they can enrol with 10 percent less points than the number set for the general population.

A total of 1,969 pupils are enrolled for lessons in Czech, Hungarian, Serbian and Italian (figures enclosed).

The same decision offers special benefits to pupils from the Roma national minority, on the basis of the National Program for Roma.

A pupil from the Roma national minority who lives in conditions which could affect his/her success in elementary school, may enrol in high school if he/she has up to 10% fewer points than the number of points prescribed for the general population, and if he/she passes a test of ability and talent in schools where this is the condition for enrolment. In order to make use of this right, along with other enrolment documents, in order to enrol in high school the pupil must include with the application:

- a recommendation from the Roma National Minority Council or registered Roma association;
- the opinion of the service for professional counselling on the abilities and motivation of the pupil for up to three appropriate educational programs.

The number of pupils who are members of national minorities in Model A
Academic year 2005/06.

National minority	The number of pupils –elementary school	Note	
		No. of schools	
Czech	332	2	
Hungarians	380	4	
Serbs	2466	18	
Italians	1700	17	
TOTAL	4,878		

The number of pupils who are members of national minorities in Model "C"
TEACHING OF MOTHER TONGUE AND CULTURE
Academic year 2005/06.

National minority	No. pupils at elementary school	No. of pupils at high school	Note
Albanians	50	none	
Czechs	388	48 although run as Model A	135 pupils in Czech societies
Macedonians	13	0	
Hungarians	477	0	
Germans and Austrians	78	0	
Ruthenians	67	0	
Slovaks	482	0	
Serbs	435	0	
Ukrainians	26	0	
TOTAL	2,016		

Higher Education

Pursuant to the provisions of the Act on Scientific Work and Higher Education, universities, polytechnics and colleges establish the procedure for selection of candidates for enrolment in a way which guarantees the equality of all applicants regardless of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other beliefs, national or social origins, assets, birth, social position,

disablement, sexual orientation and age. Institutions of higher education establish the criteria on the basis of which classification and selection of candidates for enrolment are made.

At institutions of higher education members of national minorities follow courses in the Croatian language with the exception of some institutions of higher education where teaching is conducted in a minority language. For example, the University of Rijeka Teacher Training College in Pula has for many years offered studies to the Italian national minority, in the form of studies for class teachers (1st to 4th grade) and pre-school education in the Italian language. The Teacher Training College in Zagreb offers studies for class teachers in Serbian.

In order to increase the number of Roma students, in agreement with the Rector's council and the Council of Institutes of Higher Education, a quota should be introduced for Roma. Seventeen students who declare themselves as Roma are studying at institutions of higher education in the Republic of Croatia, and they are given financial support by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sport as an incentive for them to complete their studies successfully.

With the aim of enabling successful studying and increasing the number of students enrolled at institutes of higher education, financial support is offered through the Ministry of Science, Education and Sport (state scholarships for regular students, subsidised accommodation in student residences, subsidised meals in student restaurants).

Institutes of higher education issue all students after enrolment with an identity card which they can use to realize certain rights, e.g. the right to meals in student restaurants and subsidized public transport for students. Students gain the right to accommodation in student residences by responding to an advertisement published by the students' centre.

The National Minorities Council monitored the application of the Act on Education throughout 2005, in relation to the implementation of the program of work of minority schools, such as the translation and printing of textbooks in the languages of the national minorities and co-financing of special programs of education for members of national minorities.

The National Minorities Council pointed out certain failings related to the implementation of the Act on Education, in terms of the insufficient number of advisors for minority languages and minority education. It also pointed out that no criteria exist for the allocation of funding or control mechanisms for spending funds given for printing textbooks in the languages of national minorities, the organization of summer schools for members of national minorities and education of minority teachers.

On the basis of the recommendations of the National Minorities Council, in 2005 the Ministry of Science, Education and sport employed advisors for minority languages and the manner of allocation of funds was harmonized for printing textbooks in the languages of national minorities, the organization of summer schools for members of national minorities as well as teacher training. *****

NATALIJA Article 9 – Judicial authorities

- *from Article 9*, paragraph 1
- subparagraph a), points ii and iv

- subparagraph b), points ii and iii
- subparagraph c), points ii and iii
- subparagraph d)

Under Article 25 of the Act on the Use of Languages and Scripts of National Minorities, the right of citizens to use their own language and script in proceedings and before judicial authorities is protected within appellate proceedings against a decision not allowing such use. In the reporting period no appeals have been lodged on the ground of denial of use of a minority language which is in equal official use. Neither have there been any petitions referring to violations of the right to equal official use of a minority language.

Namely, when a party is prevented from using his or her own language and script – either by not being informed that proceedings may be conducted in the language and script of a national minority or by being prevented from using this language in first instance proceedings – this amounts to a substantial procedural violation.

Criminal proceedings

Article 7 of the Civil Procedure Act regulates that in criminal proceedings the Croatian language and Latin script are used, unless another language or script has been introduced by law for use in certain areas within the jurisdictional territory of courts.

Parties, witnesses and other participants in proceedings have the right to use their own language. If a procedural action is not carried out in their language, the interpretation of statements and the translation of documents and other written evidence are to be provided. The interpretation and translation are carried out by an interpreter.

Parties, witnesses and other participants in proceedings are to be informed of their right to an interpreter and translator before their first appearance, and they may waive their right if they speak the language in which the proceedings are conducted. The court will enter in the record that such information was given and will also record the person's response.

The court issues summonses and decisions in the Croatian language and in Latin script. Accusatory pleadings, appeals and other briefs are submitted to the court in the Croatian language and in Latin script. If the law prescribes another language or script for official use in certain areas within the jurisdictional territory of the courts, briefs may be submitted to the court in this language or script as well. After the initiation of the trial, the person who submitted a brief may not revoke his or her decision on the language he or she is going to use in the proceedings without the approval of the court.

An arrested person, a defendant in detention and a person serving a sentence is to be served a translation of the summonses, decisions and briefs in the language used by this person during the proceedings.

During the trial, a foreigner in detention may submit briefs to the court in his or her language, and before and after the trial only subject to reciprocity.

Civil contentious proceedings

The Civil Procedure Act regulates in Article 102 that when participating in hearings and taking other oral procedural actions before the court, parties and other participants in the proceedings have the right to use their own language. If the proceedings are not conducted in the language of the party or other participants in the proceedings, interpretation into their language is to be provided for them of everything that is said at the hearing as well as of any documents that are used at the hearing for the purpose of evidence-taking. Parties and other participants in the proceedings are to be informed about their right to follow oral proceedings before the court in their own language, assisted by an interpreter. They may waive their right to an interpreter, if they state that they speak the language in which the proceedings are conducted. It will be recorded in the minutes that they were given the information and the minutes will also include the parties' or participants' statements. Interpretation is performed by interpreters.

We can mention the observations about the work of the Beli Manastir Municipal Court, which does not operate on a bilingual basis, in accord with the Town Statute. However, where a party seeking court protection is assessed not to speak the official language of the court sufficiently well, and this is primarily the case of members of the Hungarian national minority, proceedings are conducted in the Hungarian language.

The equal official use of minority languages before judicial authorities shows that the number of cases conducted in a minority language is below 1% when compared to the total number of cases conducted before judicial authorities that can use a minority language in first instance proceedings. In 2003 and 2004, the only language in equal official use before judicial authorities was Italian in the territory of the Istarska County (2003 – 89, 2004 – 102). Such a small number of cases whereby parties declare themselves as to the use of their language in proceedings may be explained by the fact that parties in proceedings before judicial authorities are mainly represented by their counsels (attorneys).

According to the data provided by the Pula County Court, municipal courts in Buje and Rovinj use bilingual (i.e. Croatian and Italian) signs, stamps and seals, summonses and also titles on official documents, if necessary. At the Pula Municipal Court only one set of proceedings was conducted involving parties using a minority language (Italian), whilst other courts have not conducted any proceedings in languages of national minorities. In cases involving parties or witnesses who are members of the Italian national minority, the Pula County Court and municipal courts inform these persons that they may use the services of a court interpreter for the Italian language and their statements are recorded in the minutes. The analysis of the use of minority languages in court proceedings has revealed a downward trend in the number of proceedings in which parties used the Italian language.

As part of activities aimed at upgrading the court statistics system, work has begun on designing software which will allow detailed tracking of the number and types of proceedings in which parties used minority languages before courts. Once the system is in place, data will be available by both types of proceedings and languages in equal official use.

When it comes to other minority languages in equal official use in the reporting period, there have been no such proceedings. This is due both to the specific features of court proceedings in which parties rarely participate without a counsel, and to a general decreasing trend in the number of speakers of minority languages. Parties are regularly informed by judicial authorities that they may use their own language, but encouraging members of national minorities to use their own language can not be the result of court procedure in these matters.

Article 10 – Administrative Authorities and Public Services

- from **Article 10**, paragraph 1
- subparagraph a) points ii and iv
- subparagraph b)
- subparagraph c)
- paragraph 2
- subparagraph a)
- subparagraph b)
- subparagraph c)
- subparagraph d)
- subparagraph g)
- paragraph 3
- subparagraph a)
- subparagraph b)
- subparagraph c)
- paragraph 5

The possibility of using a minority language before administrative authorities and public services is a significant contribution to the official use of minority languages. A comparison with the preceding reporting period reveals a trend toward wider exercise of the right to use minority languages.

Administrative authorities and legal persons with public powers mainly apply the General Administrative Procedure Act, which also regulates that members of national minorities are guaranteed the freedom to use their own language and script in administrative proceedings, under the conditions specified by a separate law.

- Personal identity cards in the language and script of national minorities

An important aspect of the use of minority language and script is the issuing of personal identity cards in the language and script of national minorities. Pursuant to Article 9 of the Constitutional Act, members of national minorities exercise the right to be issued with a personal identity card in their mother tongue and script in the whole territory of the Republic of Croatia, and not only in areas where a particular minority language and script is in equal official use.

The legislative framework regulating this area is the Personal Identity Card Act (*Narodne novine*, nos. 11/02 and 122/02) which, in Article 8, provides for the possibility of issuing identity cards in the language and script of a national minority in cases when this is established by a separate law or an international agreement.

In 2003, a total of 8,213 personal identity cards were issued in the language and script of national minorities. These documents were only issued in areas where the language and script of a particular national minority are in equal official use:

- in the language and script of the Italian national minority: 8,104
- in the language and script of the Serbian national minority: 103

- in the language and script of the Hungarian national minority: 5
- in the language and script of the Czech national minority: 1

In 2003, Police Directorates and Police Stations of the Ministry of the Interior received no requests for the conduct of administrative proceedings in the language and script of national minorities. However, 74 bilingual certificates were issued to citizens, upon their request, on the facts about which the Ministry of the Interior keeps official records.

In 2004, a total of 4,591 personal identity cards were issued in the language and script of national minorities and, in particular:

- in the language and script of the Italian national minority: 4,454
- in the language and script of the Serbian national minority: 133
- in the language and script of the Hungarian national minority: 4

Of these, 5 personal identity cards were issued outside of the areas where the language and script of a particular minority are used.

It was in 2004 as well that Police Directorates and Police Stations of the Ministry of the Interior received no requests for the conduct of administrative proceedings in the language and script of national minorities, but citizens were issued with 86 bilingual certificates, at their request, on the facts about which the Ministry of the Interior keeps official records.

In the period from 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005, personal identity cards were issued in the language and script of national minorities and, in particular:

- to the Italian national minority:	2,797
- to the Serbian national minority:	60
- to the Hungarian national minority:	7
TOTAL	2,864

Of these, 15 personal identity cards were issued outside of the areas in which the language and script of a particular national minority are in equal official use.

In 2005 the Ministry of the Interior issued 58 bilingual certificates and attestations in the Italian language on the facts about which the Ministry keeps official records (an overview of documents issued by Police Directorates is attached).

For all Police Departments and Police Stations of the Ministry of the Interior on whose territory the language and script of a particular national minority are in equal official use, bilingual stamps and seals have been obtained and produced, and all the text on these stamps and seals is written in the same print size.

We would also like to point out that the Ministry of the Interior has made it possible that personal names derived from foreign languages, including those in the language and script of particular national minorities, are written in identity documents issued by Police Directorates and Police Stations in an identical way as in the language and script from which they derive.

- Members of national minorities have the right to use their name and surname in the language they use, to have it officially recognised for them and their children by

being entered in the State Registers and in other official documents, pursuant to the regulations. They are also entitled to have available application forms for identity cards printed in the language and script used by them and should be allowed to fill these forms in that same language and script. NATALIJA

The Use of a Minority Language in Local and Regional Self-government Units

Article 12 of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia provides for official use of the Croatian language and Latin script. In some local units, besides the Croatian language and Latin script, another language and Cyrillic or another script may be introduced into official use under the conditions provided for by the law.

According to the definition of paragraph a) of Article 1 of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, in other words, the use of regional or minority language in a certain territory of the country, it should be noted that in the Republic of Croatia a certain territory cannot be determined precisely, since the members of national minorities are present in the entire territory, to a bigger or lesser extent.

Members of the Italian minority are mostly concentrated in the territory of the Istarska County, whereas members of the Czech minority mostly live in the territory of the Bjelovarsko-bilogorska County, whereas members of the Hungarian, Slovakian, Ruthenian and Ukrainian minorities live in the territory of Osječko-baranjska and Vukovarsko-srijemska Counties. The Serb minority mostly lives dispersed over the entire territory of the Republic of Croatia, whilst it is concentrated to a lesser extent in parts of a number of counties (the Šibensko-kninska, Zadarska, Ličko-senjska, Karlovačka, Sisčko-moslavačka, Vukovarsko-srijemska and Osječko-baranjska Counties).

The Act on the Use of Languages and Scripts regulates the implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in the area of official equal use of a minority language before state administration authorities and authorities of local and regional self-government units, as well as by legal persons vested with public powers.

Article 12 of the Constitutional Act prescribes that official equal use of the language and script used by members of a national minority is exercised in the territory of a local self-government unit when the members of a specific national minority account for at least one-third of the population of such a unit. Official equal use of a language and script used by members of a national minority is also exercised when it is provided for by international agreements which, in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia, constitute a part of the internal legal order of the Republic of Croatia and when it is provided for under the statute of the local self-government or the statute of the regional self-government unit in accordance with the provisions of the Act on the Use of Languages and Scripts.

Other requirements, pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 3 Article 12 of the Constitutional Act, as well as the manner of official use of the language and script used by members of a national minority in representative and executive bodies and in the proceedings before state administration authorities of the first instance, in the proceedings before judicial authorities of the first instance, in proceedings conducted by the state prosecutor's office and public

notaries, as well as legal persons vested with public powers, have been elaborated by the Act on the Use of Languages and Scripts.

With regard to the above it should be noted that the Act on the Use of Languages and Scripts does not change or abolish the rights of the members of national minorities acquired on the basis of international agreements of which the Republic of Croatia is a party, nor the rights acquired pursuant of the laws and regulations which had been in effect prior to coming of the Act into force (prior to 27 May 2000).

Part II, under b), Articles 12 through 20 of the Act mentioned above regulates the official equal use of languages and scripts of national minorities in proceedings before state authorities of the first instance and legal persons vested with public powers.

Particularly, Article 18 regulates that state administration authorities of the first instance, organisational units of central state administration authorities which conduct proceedings in the first instance, judicial authorities of the first instance, public prosecutor's offices (*državna odvjetništva*) and public attorney's offices (*državna pravobraniteljstva*) of the first instance, public notaries and legal persons vested with public powers which have their offices and local offices in municipalities, cities and counties in which, besides the Croatian language and Latin script, the language and script of the national minority is also officially used, do the following in the Croatian language and Latin script and, at the request of the citizens, in two or more languages:

1. issue public documents
2. print forms used for official purposes
3. write the text of seals and stamps with letters of the same size
4. write inscription plaques
5. write headings of acts with letters of the same size.

Following is an overview of counties in whose territory local and regional self-government units and/or cities and municipalities which used to be, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitutional Act, required to regulate by statutes the right to use a minority language (the local and regional self-government units in which members of a national minority account for at least one-third of the population).

The Sisačko-Moslavačka County

In the Sisačko-Moslavačka County, in the Municipalities of Dvor and Gvozd, equal use of Serbian language and Cyrillic script was introduced by statutes. In the Municipality of Dvor the share of Serbian national minority is 60.87%, whereas in the Municipality of Gvozd it is 53.03%.

The Statute of the Municipality of Gvozd (Official Journal („*Službeni vjesnik*“) of the Municipality of Gvozd, no: 22/01, 27/01, 28/04) regulates that the members of the Serbian national minority have the right to official equal use of the Serbian language and script in the entire territory of the Municipality of Gvozd (Article 11.a), and have the right to freely display their flag and symbols together with the flag and coat of arms of the Republic of Croatia on religious and state holidays, and permanently display it on the building of the Municipality of Gvozd together with the flag the Republic of Croatia.

In the Municipality of Dvor, Article 58 of the Statute (Official Journal („*Službeni vjesnik*“ of the Municipality of Dvor, Nos: 19/01, 13/02 and 4/03), provides for, besides the Croatian language and script, official use of the Serbian language and script.

The Karlovačka County

With regard to the implementation of the Act on the Use of Language and Script in the territory of the Karlovačka County, official equal use of the language and script of the national minorities was introduced in the statutes of the following local self-government units:

In the Statute of **the Municipality of Krnjak**, Articles 9, 10 and 11 provide for the provisions on the official equal use of the language and script of the Serbian national minority.

Article 9 of the Statute provides for the following: “The members of the Serbian national minority who account for more than one-third of the population (61.55% - according to the 2001 Census), for the purpose of exercising the freedom in expressing national particularities are guaranteed, in accordance with the Constitution and this Statute, and in accordance with the requirements for the common life with Croats and members of other ethnic and national communities and minorities, free and equal use of the Serbian language and Cyrillic script, as well as nurturing the culture and education in their own language.”

Furthermore, Article 10 of the Statute provides for the following:

»In the Municipality bilingual provision, in the Croatian and Serbian languages, will be ensured of the following:

- writing the texts of seals and stamps with letters of the same size
- writing the inscription plaques of representative, executive and administrative authorities of the Municipality, as well as legal persons vested with public powers with letters of the same size
- writing of headings of acts with letters of the same size.

The Municipality will ensure for the councilors and citizens bilingual provision, in the Croatian and Serbian languages, of the following:

- materials for the session of the Municipal Council
- drafting minutes and publication of conclusions
- publication of official notices and invitations by the Municipal Council and administrative authorities.

The Municipality ensures for the citizens the right to bilingual provision, in the Croatian and Serbian languages, of the following:

- issuance of public documents
- printing of forms used for official purposes.«

Article 11 of the Statute provides for the following: »Members of the Serbian national minority are guaranteed the right to public use of their language and script, the right to preserve their national and cultural identities, the right to establishment of autonomous, cultural and other societies, the right to free organizing of information and publishing activities, the right to education in their own language and the right to displaying national signs.«

Articles 9 and 10 of the Statute of **the Municipality of Vojnić** provide for the provisions on official equal use of the language and script of the Serbian national minority.

Article 9 of the Statute provides for the following: »In the Municipality of Vojnić there is official equal use of the Croatian language and Latin script and language and the script of the Serbian national minority in the whole territory of the Municipality. In the exercise of the rights referred to in paragraph 1 of this Statute in the Municipality, in the whole territory, the following will be printed bilingually – in the Croatian and Serbian language, with letters of the same size:

- written traffic signs and other written traffic markings
- names of streets and squares
- names of settlements and localities.

In the territory of the Municipality referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, legal and physical persons performing a public activity may print the names bilingually, in the Croatian and Serbian languages.«

Furthermore, Article 10 of the Statute provides for the following: »In the Municipality, the work of the Municipal Council is performed in the Croatian language and Latin script, and Serbian language and Cyrillic script.

In the Municipality the following is provided bilingually, in the Croatian and Serbian languages:

- writing of the text of seals and stamps with letters of the same size
- writing of inscription plaques of the representative, executive and administrative authorities of the Municipality, as well as legal persons with public authorities with letters of the same size
- writing of headings of acts with letters of the same size.

The Municipality ensures bilingually, in the Croatian and Serbian languages for the councilors and citizens:

- service of materials for the session of the Municipal Council
- drafting the minutes and publication of conclusions
- publication of official notices and invitations of the Municipal Council and administrative authorities, as well as materials for the session of the Municipal Council.

The Municipality ensures for the citizens the right to bilingual, in the Croatian and Serbian languages:

- issuance of public documents
- printing of forms used for official purposes.«

Members of the Serbian minority have, in the proceedings of the first and second instances before the administrative authorities of the Municipality, the same rights as in the proceedings before the state administrative authorities of the first instance.

Those local units have not ensured the implementation of the provisions referred to above because of the lack of material and technical conditions for their implementation.

In the **Municipality of Plaški**, where the Serbian national minority accounts for 45.99% of the population, provisions on the official equal use of the language and script of the national minority have not been included in the provisions of the Statute of the Municipality.

With regard to the proceeding on the basis of the request of the clients of the Office of State Administration in the Karlovačka County, in practice there have been no requests of clients for exercising the right to equal use of the language and script of the national minority in the territory of the specified municipalities.

The Bjelovarsko-bilogorska County

The Municipality of Končanica is obliged to implement the Act on the Use of Languages and Scripts with regard to the Czech national minority, given that in the territory of the Municipality members of the Czech national minority account for 46.67% of the total population. On the basis of the Statute of the Municipality of Končanica, in the settlements of Končanica, Daruvarski Brestovac, Otkopi and Boriš equal use of the Czech language with the official Croatian language and script is ensured. In those settlements setting up is insured of bilingual names of places, traffic signs and bilingual names of legal and physical persons, who operate or are registered in those settlements, and perform a public activity.

Members of the Czech national minority are ensured the right to bilingual:

- issuance of public documents
- printing of forms used for official purposes .

This right is exercised by citizens and legal persons at their personal request.

The City of Daruvar prescribed in its Statute the official use of the Czech language and script, in the section of the area of the City of Daruvar where the members of the Czech national minority account for one-third of the population, in specific settlements: Ljudevit Selo, Donji Daruvar, Gornji Daruvar and Doljani, where the Czech minority has the right to issue public documents in the Czech language, the possibility for the legal and physical persons who discharge a public activity may print their names in the Croatian and Czech languages, and placing inscription plaques on public institutions, community homes, schools and other institutions. Names of places in the Croatian and Czech language have been placed at entry points of settlements, and in the territory of the whole City of Daruvar they are able to use the Czech language.

The Primorsko-goranska County

With regard to the implementation of the Act on the Use of Languages and Scripts in the territory of the Primorsko-goranska County, none of the total of 35 municipalities and cities, and neither has the Primorsko-goranska County, introduced into official equal use the language and script of the members of the national minority.

With a view to the above, the Office of State Administration of the Primorsko-goranska County, as the authority of first instance, does not issue public documents and does not print forms used for official purposes in the language and script of the national minority, nor write

the text of seals and stamps, as well as inscription plaques, and also headings of acts, in the language and script of the national minority.

According to the 2001 Census, the share of the Serbian national minority in the population of the City of Vrbovsko account for more than 1/3, more precisely, 36.23%. The Statute of the City of Vrbovsko does not provide for official equal use of the Serbian language and script.

The Ličko-senjska County

According to the data of the Central Bureau of Statistics based on the 2001 Census, in the territory of the Ličko-senjska County the Serbian national minority accounts for the majority of population in the Municipalities of **Donji Lapac** (73.56%) and **the Municipality of Vrhovine** (55.03%).

The Municipality of Vrhovine has guaranteed with its Statute equal use of both the language and script to the Serbian national minority, and has committed by a special act to prescribe the requirements and manner of the exercise of equal use of language and script.

According to the report of the Municipality of Vrhovine and the Municipality of Donji Lapac, equal use of language and script of the Serbian national minority, in terms of the provisions of Articles 8–11 of the Act on the Use of Languages and Scripts, there is a lack of interest for the exercise of this right.

With regard to the implementation and enforcement of the Act on the Use of Languages and Scripts by the Office of State Administration in the Ličko-senjska County, in the proceedings of the first instance, in the territory of the above-mentioned municipalities registrar activities are performed, with the Municipality of Donji Lapac being the seat of the registrar's office, whereas registrar activities for the territory of the Municipality of Vrhovine are performed in the Local Office of the State Administration in Otočac.

In the past period there have been no requests of the citizens for issuance of public documents in the language and script of the Serbian national minority, so the Office did not print forms used for official purposes in the language and script of that national minority. The Office has no seal or stamp, nor does it have an inscription plaque in Donji Lapac in the language and script of the Serbian national minority.

The Zadarska County

According to the 2001 Census, in the territory of the Zadarska County members of the Serbian national minority account for one-third of the population in **the Municipality of Gračac** (38.82%).

In the Municipality of Gračac there have been no requests for exercising the right regulated by the Act on the Use of Languages and Scripts. The Statute of the Municipality of Gračac (Official Journal („*Službeni Glasnik*“) of the Municipality of Gračac, no. 12/01) does not contain provisions on the official equal use of language and script of the national minorities, and consequently of the Serbian national minority either.

The Osječko-baranjska County

The following was established on the basis of the Report of the Osječko-baranjska County, pertaining to the implementation and enforcement of the Act on the Use of Languages and Scripts:

The Municipality of Jagodnjak

In the Municipality of Jagodnjak the Serbian national minority accounts for 64.72% of the total population, and the Statute of the Municipality provides for public use of the language and script. The Serbian national minority is able to address the municipal authorities in the Serbian language and script. It is stressed that it seldom happens in practice that some of the members of the Serbian national minority send communications in the Serbian language and script.

In addition, in the implementation of the provisions of the Statute, inscription plaques (the Municipality, names of streets, etc.) contain, besides the Croatian language and script, the Serbian language and script.

The Municipality of Bilje

In the Municipality of Bilje the Hungarian national minority accounts for 35.05% of the total population of this territory, and the Statute of the Municipality of Bilje guarantees the use of the language of the Hungarian national minority. In accordance with Articles 11–20 of the Statute, the use of the language and script is implemented and applied in the entire territory of the Municipality.

The Municipality of Kneževi Vinogradi

In the Municipality of Kneževi Vinogradi the Hungarian national minority accounts for 40.90% of the total population, and in accordance with Articles 14–17 of the Statute the Municipality of Kneževi Vinogradi, equal use is ensured of the Hungarian language in the territory of the Municipality.

In the Municipality of Kneževi Vinogradi general acts have been harmonized with the Act on the Use of Language and Script, and the Act is being fully implemented.

The most important acts (tenders, notices, reports, announcements, etc.) are printed bilingually.

The Municipality of Šodolovci

In the Municipality of Šodolovci the Serbian national minority accounts for 84.55% of the population, and the Statute of the Municipality (Official Journal („*Službeni Glasnik*“) of the Municipality of Šodolovci, No. 1/06) provides for equal use of the language and script of the Serbian national minority.

In the Municipality of Šodolovci bilingual writing (in the Croatian and Serbian languages) has been ensured of the texts of stamps and inscription plaques of the representative and executive

authorities of the Municipality. The following has been ensured in two languages for the councilors and citizens:

- service of materials for sessions
- drafting minutes
- publishing conclusions
- publication of official notices and invitations.

The Municipality has ensured for the citizens the right to bilingual issuance of public documents and printing of forms used for official purposes.

The Municipality of Punitovci

In the Municipality of Punitovci the Slovakian national minority accounts for 35.57% of the total population; however, the Statute does not regulate equal use of the minority language.

The work of the Slovakian national minority is visible through the Slovakian Cultural Society (*Matica slovačka*), Josipovac and Jurjevac, through the Council of the Slovakian national minority and the Municipality of Punitovci, in which out of 13 members of the Council eight are citizens of the Slovakian national minority. In the past work of the Municipal Council of the Municipality of Punitovci there has been no need for strict enforcement of the Act on the Use of Languages and Scripts.

The Šibensko-kninska County

In the territory of the Šibensko-kninska County the Serbian national minority accounts for the majority of the population in four local self-government units, namely, in the municipalities of Biskupija, Ervenik, Cijlžane and Kistanje.

Of the municipalities mentioned above, only the Municipality of Biskupija in its Statute („Official Journal of the Šibensko-kninska County“, no.: 17/01, 4/03, 12/05, 3/06), has prescribed official equal use of the Croatian language and Latin script and language and the script of the national minority, i.e., the language and script of the Serbian national minority.

Article 9 provides for the Municipality to have a stamp, written in Latin and Cyrillic scripts . Article 9.b prescribes that »In the territory of the Municipality of Biskupija, in addition to the Croatian language and Latin script, the Serbian language and Cyrillic script are in official use.« Pursuant to Article 9.c members of national minorities will be ensured freedom of expression of national affiliation, freedom of use of one's own language and script in official and private use.

Provisions regulating the matters indicated above are partially implemented, since procedures are being implemented for creation of their comprehensive implementation.

The Vukovarsko-srijemska County

In the Vukovarsko-srijemska County, in the City of Vukovar in which is the seat of the State Administration Office, and in the cities of Vinkovci, Županja and Ilok, in which there are local offices of the Office, the languages and scripts of the members of national minorities have not been introduced in official use besides the Croatian language and Latin script, because in those cities no national minority makes up one-third of the total population.

For the reasons mentioned above, in the cities of Vukovar, Vinkovci, Županja and Ilok the provisions are not implemented of Article 18 paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Act on the Use of Languages and Scripts in relation to bilingual or multilingual issuance of public documents, printing forms used for official purposes, writing text of seals and stamps with letters of the same size, printing the inscription plaques, as well as printing headings of acts with letters of the same size. This statement also refers to the activities of registrar activities performed in the offices mentioned above – seat of the office in Vukovar and its local offices.

With regard to the activities in the administrative area of registrar activities performed in the office space of registrar's offices in the seats of the municipalities that have regulated in their statutes, besides the official use of the Croatian language and Latin script, the official use of the language and script of the Serbian national minority, the following should be noted:

- in Registrar's Office **Markušica** in practice so far there have been no requests of citizens for bilingual issuance of public documents, and consequently for the printing of forms used for official purposes
- in Registrar's Office **Trpinja** in practice so far there has been no requests of citizens for bilingual issuance of public documents, and consequently for the printing of forms used for official purposes.

In the Municipalities in the territory of the Vukovarsko-srijemska County, in which registrar activities are performed on specific working days, and in which the statutes provide, besides the official use of the Croatian language and Latin script also official use of the language and script of a specific national minority, also in the practice so far there have been no requests of citizens for bilingual issuance of public documents, and consequently for the printing of forms used for official purposes.

In the Vukovarsko-srijemska County the Act on the Use of a Minority Language is implemented in the following municipalities:

In the Municipality of Borovo in which, according to the 2001 Census, Serbs account for 86.57%. The Municipality has regulated by its Statute the equal use of the Serbian language and script. Besides the Croatian language and Latin script, the Serbian language and Cyrillic script are used.

Serbs account for 96.59% of the total population in the Municipality of Negoslavci. The Statute regulates the right to use the Serbian language and script. In practice the Serbian language and script are used the most.

Serbs account for 90.76% of the total population in the Municipality of Markušica. The Municipality of Markušica has regulated the right to use the Serbian language and script with

its Statute. In practice, besides the Croatian language, the language and script of the Serbian national minority are used.

Serbs account for 89.30% of the total population in the Municipality of Trpinja. The Municipality has regulated the right to use the language and script of the Serbian national minority with its Statute.

The Municipalities mentioned above have regulated in detail with their Statutes official equal use of the languages and scripts of national minorities in the work of representative and executive authorities of the Municipality, in proceedings before administrative authorities of the Municipality; they have also regulated by Statutes bilingual (Latin and Cyrillic) writing of texts on seals and stamps with letters of the same size, writing of inscription plaques of representative and executive authorities of the Municipality and administrative authorities, writing headings of acts with letters of the same size.

Pursuant to Article 6 paragraph 2 of the Act on the use of Languages and Scripts in three municipalities of the Vukovarsko-srijemska County official equal use of language and script of the national minority has been introduced only for a *part* of the Municipality.

In the Municipality of Tompojevci for the territory of the settlement of **Mikluševci**, where Ruthenians make up the majority of the population (of the total of 486 inhabitants 359 are Ruthenians), equal use of the Ruthenian language has been introduced by the Statute of the Municipality of Tompojevci, and for the settlement of **Čakovci** in the same Municipality, where Hungarians make up the majority of the population, equal use of the Hungarian language and script has been introduced.

In the Municipality of Tordinci, for the territory of the settlement of **Korog**, the Statute regulates besides the official use of the Croatian language and Latin script equal use of the Hungarian language and script in accordance with the special regulations (the settlement of Korog, out of a total of 521 inhabitants, has 378 Hungarians).

The Municipality of Bogdanovci has regulated under the Statute of the Municipality equal use of the Ruthenian language in the territory of the settlement of **Petrovci**, where, out of the total of 988 inhabitants, 549 are Ruthenians.

In the municipalities mentioned above, where equal use of the language and script of the national minority is introduced only for a part of the Municipality, in practice the population, in case of official correspondence with administrative authorities of the Municipality, uses the Croatian language and Latin script.

The Istarska County

The State Administration Office in the Istarska County, as the authority of state administration of the first instance, in the implementation of the Act on the use of Languages and Scripts, in the seat of the Office in Pula, as well as in its local offices, in cities in which, besides the Croatian language and Latin script the language and script of the Italian national minority is also used, bilingual certificates from state registers and other documents are issued if the clients so request.

Also, the text on all seals and stamps is written in both Croatian and Italian language, as well as signs of offices, local offices (Pula, Rovinj, Poreč, Umag, Buje) and registrar's offices (Pula, Rovinj, Poreč, Umag, Buje, Novigrad, Vodnjan).

In the municipalities of Bale, Brtonigla, Fažana, Grožnjan, Ližnjan, Motovun and Oprtalj, as well as the cities of Buje, Pula, Vodnjan, Rovinj, Umag and Novigrad, statutes provide for equal use of the language and script of the Italian national minority.

In the Municipality of Grožnjan, the Italian national minority accounts for 51.21% of the population, and the Statute of the Municipality provides for freedom of expression of national affiliation (Art. 9), as well as the equality of the members of all national minorities.

Members of the Italian national minority, in addition to other rights, also have the right to use their language and script, privately and in public use, access to the media and performing of the media activities in the language and script that they use.

Obligation of prescribing, under the Statute, of the equal use of the language and script, and with regard to the share of the members of the national minority in total population, refers only to two municipalities, namely, the Municipalities of Grožnjan and Brtonigla.

The following is provided bilingually in the Municipality of Grožnjan:

- writing of the text of seals and stamps with letters of the same size
- writing of inscription plaques of representative, executive and administrative authorities, as well as legal authorities
- persons vested with public powers with letters of the same size
- writing of headings of acts bilingually, with letters of the same size
- publishing of official notices and summons of representative, executive and administrative authorities, as well as provision of materials for the sessions of representative and executive authorities.

Official equal use of the Italian language in the work of administrative authorities is applied to issuance of forms, invitations, certificates, decisions and other single documents that the administrative authorities send to citizens. In addition to the Croatian language, they have to contain the text in the Italian language.

Public announcements, invitations and other notices when they are advertised, should, besides the text in the Croatian language, contain the text in the Italian language, and when they are published in the local media, they have to be delivered in the Croatian and Italian languages. Signs and marks in offices have to be in the Croatian and Italian languages. The act of contracting marriage in the territory of the Municipality of Grožnjan is performed in the language or languages which are in official equal use, according to the agreement of the persons who intend to contracting marriage.

In the territory of the Municipality of Grožnjan, the following is written in the Croatian and Italian languages, with letters of the same size:

- written traffic signs and other written markings in traffic
- names of streets and squares
- names of places and geographic localities
- names of legal and physical persons exercising public office.

To attain equality of the Croatian and Italian languages, municipal authorities of the Municipality of Grožnjan, institutions and legal persons whose founder is the Municipality employ the corresponding number of employees who use equally the Croatian and Italian languages.

In the Municipality of Brtonigla, members of the Italian national minority account for 37.37% of the total population and the Municipality guarantees under the Statute to the members of the national minorities use of their languages and scripts, privately and in public use, as well as access to the media and performing of the activity of public communication (information receiving and publication) in the language and script that they use.

Pursuant to Article 16 of the Statute in the territory of the Municipality of Brtonigla the Croatian and Italian languages are equal, therefore, the Municipality ensures the conditions which guarantee that the overall public and official life will run with equality of both languages.

The Statute also prescribes encouraging studies of the Italian language, as the language of the social community.

Article 20 prescribes that in the territory of the Municipality equal use of the language of the Italian national minority is exercised:

- in the work of the representative and executive authorities of the Municipality
- in proceedings before the administrative authorities of the Municipality
- in proceedings before the state administration authorities of the first instance, before organisational units of central state administration authorities which proceed in the first instance
- before judicial authorities of the first instance, public prosecutor's offices (*državna odvjetništva*) and public attorney's offices (*državna pravobraniteljstva*) of the first instance, public notaries and legal persons with public authorities, who are authorized to proceed in the territory of the Municipality which has introduced the minority language into official equal use.

Those authorities will enable using of and acknowledge the validity of private legal documents drawn up in the territory of the Republic of Croatia also when they are drawn up in the Italian language.

In the Municipality of Brtonigla the following is provided bilingually:

- writing of text of seals and stamps with letters of the same size
- writing of inscription plaques of the representative, executive and administrative authorities, as well as legal persons with public authorities with letters of the same size
- writing of headings of documents bilingually, with letters of the same size
- serving of official notices and summons of representative, executive and administrative authorities, as well as materials for sessions of representative and executive authorities .

Official equal use of the Italian language in the work of administrative authorities pertains to the following:

- forms, invitations, certificates, decisions and other single documents that the administrative authorities send to citizens, have to contain text in the Italian language besides the text in the Croatian language
- public announcements, invitations and other communications when advertised, have to contain text in the Italian language besides the text in the Croatian language, and when published in the local media, they have to be delivered in the Croatian and Italian languages
- signs and inscription plaques in offices have to be in the Croatian and Italian languages
- the act of contracting marriage is performed in the language or languages which are in official equal use in the territory of the Municipality of Brtonigla, according to the agreement of persons who intend to contract marriage.

The following is written in the territory of the Municipality of Brtonigla in the Croatian and Italian languages, with letters of the same size:

- written traffic signs and other written signs in traffic
- names of streets and squares
- names of places and geographic localities
- names of legal and physical persons exercising public office.

To attain equality of the Croatian and Italian languages, municipal authorities of the Municipality of Brtonigla, institutions and legal persons whose founder is the Municipality employ a corresponding number of employees who use equally both the Croatian and Italian languages.

Note

With regard to the participation of the national minorities in the total number of population in the Zagrebačka, Krapinsko-zagorska, Varaždinska, Koprivničko-križevačka, Virovitičko-podravska, Požeško-slavonska, Brodsko-posavska, Splitsko-dalmatinska, Dubrovačko-neretvanska and Međimurska Counties, in accordance with the Constitutional Act and the Act on the use of Languages and Scripts, there are no grounds for introduction of minority languages in official equal use.

The Use of a Minority Language before Legal Persons Vested with Public Powers

Following are examples of the use of a minority language before legal persons vested with public powers;

Port Authority Pula has initiated the production of bilingual (in Croatian and Italian languages) of inscription plaques, seals and forms for this Port Authority and its local offices in Umag, Novigrad, Poreč and Rovinj as a language of national minority in that territory. Its implementation is underway. Given that most of the documents issued by port authorities and their local offices have been printed bilingually (in the Croatian and English languages) with the note that English is the official language in maritime affairs, so far there has been no record of a case when a client would also request issuance of a document in the Italian language, which is the language of the national minority in that territory.

The Croatian Employment Office performs its activities through the Central Office in Zagreb and 93 local offices organised in 22 regional offices. Equal use of the language and script of national minorities and bilingual signs are displayed pursuant to the provisions of Article 18 of the Act on the Use of Language and Script in the following organisational units: Regional Office Pula (Local Office Labin, Local Office Poreč, Local Office Rovinj and Local Office Umag).

It should be noted that over the last several years competent authorities have not received any requests in the language and script of the national minorities that would require issuance of administrative documents in the minority languages or scripts.

Pursuant to Article 105 of the Pension Insurance Act, the Croatian Institute for Pension Insurance (hereinafter: the Institute) as a public institution resolves the pension insurance entitlements in the first instance at the level of the organisational unit – regional office, and in the second instance at the level of the central organisational unit – central office.

Although they are consistent with Part V of the Statute of the Institute, regional offices are organised mostly on the county principle, i.e., according to the seats of the counties. Decisions passed in the first instance do not pertain to the place of residence of the insured person, but are consistent with Article 105 of the Pension Insurance Act mentioned above according to the territory of the regional office in which the person was last insured, in other words, according to the principle of the seat of the last employer.

Pursuant to Article 13 paragraph 3 of the Statute of the Institute, and for purpose of accessibility to the exercise of pension insurance entitlements for those insured persons for performance of specific activities (but not issuance of decisions), the Institute establishes local offices of the regional offices. So far 86 local offices have been established in municipalities and cities. In some local offices Article 18 paragraph 1 of the Act on the Use of Languages and Scripts is implemented, and in some it is not.

In local offices in Rovinj and Umag (of the Regional Office in Pula), in principle, bilingualism of the Croatian and Italian languages and scripts is exercised in the form of:

- written inscription plaques with the name of the Institute
- written text of the stamp with the name of the Institute.

Article 11 – The Media

- *from Article 11* paragraph 1
- subparagraph a) point iii
- subparagraph d)
- subparagraph e) point ii
- paragraph 2
- paragraph 3

The work of the media is conducted within the legal framework of the Media Act (Official Gazette no. 59/04), the Act on the Electronic Media (Official Gazette 122/03), the Act on Croatian Radio and Television (Official Gazette 25/03), the Act on the Croatian News Agency (HINA) (Official Gazette 96/01) and the Act on Ratification of the European Convention on

Transfrontier Television and the Protocol on Amendments to the European Convention on Transfrontier Television (Official Gazette – International Agreements no. 11/01).

The implementation of Article 18 of the Constitutional Act regulating the realization of the rights of national minorities regarding the media, is conducted pursuant to Articles 5 and 11 of the Media Act, Articles 9, 10, 12, and 57 of the Act on the Electronic Media and Article 5 of the Act on Croatian Radio and Television. Members of national minorities, pursuant to the Act on the Electronic Media and the Media Act, may found radio and television companies, and may receive support for the production of programs as prescribed by these legal laws and regulations.

On the basis of Articles 56 and 57 of the Act on the Electronic Media a fund has been established to encourage pluralism and variety in the media, by means of which, amongst other things, the production and publication is encouraged of programs of public interest on the electronic media at a local and regional level, and which are especially important for national minorities in the Republic of Croatia. Decisions on allocation of funding of the Fund are made by the Electronic Media Council. The Fund's funds were first allocated in 2005.

Article 5 of the Media Act also prescribes support to encourage the production and publication of programs in the media, relating to the realization of the right to public information and providing information to members of the national minorities in the Republic of Croatia and the launch of new printed media, especially local not-for-profit media and media and minority associations. This support is allocated from the state budget.

Moreover, pursuant to Article 5 of the Act on Croatian Radio and Television, Croatian Radio and Television is obliged to produce and/or broadcast programs aimed at informing members of national minorities in the Republic of Croatia. Croatian Radio and Television deals with subjects about national minorities in the special program "Prizma" as well as in almost all other parts of its program in line with the content of the program and genre of each program (e.g. documentaries, concerts, news, historical calendar of events, customs and cultural characteristics of national minorities as part of the cultural program etc.) "City Folk" is a new program about the inhabitants of European cities where a third of the inhabitants consider their origins to be in a minority group.

The weekly magazine program "Život uživo (Live from life)" also deals with the problems of national minorities in the Republic of Croatia each week.

The Croatian radio program for national minorities is broadcast as part of the First Program of Croatian Radio and regional stations (Rijeka, Pula and Osijek), and financial support is given for a program for the Czech national minority on Radio Daruvar (a radio station not included in the Croatian Radio's system. Moreover Croatian Radio's international program includes "Glas Hrvatske" (*The Voice of Croatia*) broadcasting several programs aimed at minorities in Croatia on medium and short wave, via satellite and the Internet.

Croatian Radio's First Program broadcasts Agora - a program for national minorities every Saturday from 16.00 to 17.00 hours and on Tuesdays once a month from 9.00 to 10.00.

Radio Rijeka has had an Italian section since it was founded broadcasting programs in that language over its catchment area.

The news is broadcast every day at 10.00, 12.00, 14.00 and 16.00 hours, lasting 10 minutes. The main news broadcast at 16.00 lasts up to 15 minutes. As part of the program of Radio Rijeka, every Wednesday there is a fifteen minute broadcast entitled “Etnoteka” dealing with the work and problems of national minorities and ethnic communities in the Primorsko-goranska County.

Radio Pula broadcasts a daily program in Italian for this national minority in Istria. The news is at 11.00 and 14.00 (five minutes). The main news is at 16.30 (lasting 30 minutes) giving news from Istria, Croatia and the world, with items on culture and traditional customs of Istrian Italians.

Radio Osijek has a regular broadcast for the Hungarian and Slovak communities at regular times: the program had been broadcast in Hungarian for more than 50 years from 18.30 to 19.00 hours. This program gives news about anything of importance to the Hungarian minority from politics, the economy and culture, to cultivation of traditions, music and customs giving a complete picture of the life and work of this community.

A program for Slovaks was launched on 2nd September 2002 and is broadcast every Monday from 17.45 to 18.00 entitled “Slovaci u Hrvatskoj pjesmom i rječju“ (*Slovaks in Croatia in word and song*). It brings news, announcements, music and items of interest from the Slovak community.

Radio Osijek also regularly covers the work of the German national minority – the Society of Danube Valley Germans, with no regular timetable, but their work is mainly covered in the Monday program “Iz prve ruke (*First Hand*)” or at other times related to the events.

“Glas Hrvatske” - *The Voice of Croatia*

- an original magazine program with news from the life and work of minorities – Wednesdays 12.30 to 13.00 (repeated at 10.00 and on Sundays at 02.03),
- programs for the Italian minority and Italians in Croatia and abroad “Mezz ora italiana” Pula Radio – every day from 16.30 to 17.00,
- programs for the Hungarian minority and Hungarians in Croatia, Osijek Radio – every day at 18.30 to 19.00,
- programs on Radio Daruvar for the Czech minority and Czechs in Europe – every day except Saturdays and Sundays from 10.00 to 10.10,
- repeat of programs for national minorities from the week on First Program on Sundays from 09.03 to 10.00 (repeated on Mondays),
- direct broadcast of the news program “Agora” on Tuesdays from 09.03 to 10.00 every fourth Tuesday in the month (repeated on Wednesday mornings at 06.03 to 07.00).

There are journalists and external co-workers who belong to the national minorities permanently employed in the production of these programs aimed at national minorities.

As part of the First Program broadcasts for national minorities and Agora, there are two full time editors and an external co-worker employed as needed.

The Italian department of Radio Rijeka has four full time journalists – editors (with higher education) and three co-workers with high school education. From time to time external co-workers are also used.

Radio Pula has two full time professional journalists and four external co-workers.

Radio Osijek has two full time staff with high school education, and over the weekend two external co-workers are engaged with two announcers. Programs for Slovaks are produced voluntarily by the Society of Slovaks of Croatia.

Article 12 CULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

- *from Article 12* paragraph 1
- subparagraph a)
- subparagraph f)
- subparagraph g)

Through its applicable legislative framework, the Republic of Croatia guarantees the right to cultural autonomy to all members of national minorities. Concerning the application of the provisions laid down in Article 12 of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, in proportion with its financial means, Croatia allocates significant funds to different types of cultural activities of national minorities. In the spirit of the Charter, this primarily refers to written and oral expression in the language and script of national minorities. Croatia also encourages and provides assistance for the publication of books and magazines in minority languages, and encourages music and theatre production as significant elements that facilitate the preservation of the specific characteristics of national minorities in this segment of life and work.

Archives and libraries

The legislative framework that deals with activities relating to archives and libraries consists of the Archives and Archival Material Act (*Zakon o arhivskom gradivu i arhivima* - Official Gazette no. 105/97, 64/00) and the Library Act (*Zakon o knjižnicama* - Official Gazette no. 105/97, 5/98, 104/00).

National minority associations can organise visits of professional and amateur cultural-artistic groups for their members, as well as arrange other cultural and artistic events and exhibitions which contribute to the enrichment of the culture and identity of national minorities. In such cases, foreign persons who participate in staging events and exhibitions are not obliged to have a work permit, as laid down in Article 95 of the Aliens Act (*Zakon o strancima* - Official Gazette no. 109/03).

In performing archival activities, the State Archives in the Republic of Croatia regularly collect, process and keep archival material related to national minorities.

For the needs of national minorities, library activities in Croatia are carried out by the following central national minority libraries:

- 1) Municipal Library, Beli Manastir – Central Library of the Hungarian Minority
- 2) National Library “Petar Preradović”, Bjelovar – Central Library of the Czech Minority
- 3) Municipal Library “Ivan Goran Kovačić”, Karlovac – Central Library of the Slovene Minority
- 4) Municipal and University Library, Osijek – Central Library of the Austrian Minority
- 5) City Library and Reading Room, Pula – Central Library of the Italian Minority

- 6) Croatian National Library and Reading Room, Našice – Central Library of the Slovak Minority
- 7) Library and Reading Room “Bogdan Ogrizović”, Zagreb – Central Library of the Albanian Minority
- 8) Libraries of the City of Zagreb – Central Library of the Ruthenian and Ukrainian Minority
- 9) Serbian Cultural Society “Prosvjeta”, Zagreb – Central Library of the Serbian Minority

By co-financing the publication of books and magazines and by purchasing books, the Ministry of Culture provided support for the programmes of national minorities in the Republic of Croatia with funds in the total amount of HRK 284,000. For all the programmes of national minorities, it disbursed funds to the total amount of HRK 5,713,189.73.

Financing National Minority Libraries

In 2003, as part of regular activity, funds were earmarked for the financing of national minority libraries. A total of HRK 1,218,530.73 was disbursed for the following purposes:

Municipal Library, Beli Manastir – Central Library of the Hungarian Minority
 National Library “Petar Preradović”, Bjelovar – Central Library of the Czech Minority
 Municipal Library “Ivan Goran Kovačić”, Karlovac – Central Library of the Slovene Minority
 Municipal and University Library, Osijek – Central Library of the Austrian Minority
 City Library and Reading Room, Pula – Central Library of the Italian Minority
 Croatian National Library and Reading Room, Našice – Central Library of the Slovak Minority
 Library and Reading Room “Bogdan Ogrizović”, Zagreb – Central Library of the Albanian Minority
 Libraries of the City of Zagreb – Central Library of the Ruthenian and Ukrainian Minority
 Serbian Cultural Society “Prosvjeta”, Zagreb – Central Library of the Serbian Minority

Programmes for central libraries for minorities conducted in 2003:

The Ministry of Culture provides funds for the salaries of nine employees in the central libraries for minorities:

- in Beli Manastir for the Hungarian minorities
- in Bjelovar for the Czech minority
- in Našice for the Slovak minority
- in Karlovac for the Slovene minority
- in Osijek for the Austrian minority
- in Pula for the Italian minority
- in Zagreb
 - at the "Bogdan Ogrizović" library for the Albanian minority
 - at the Municipal Library for the Ruthenian and Ukrainian minority
 - at the Serbian Cultural Society “Prosvjeta” for the Serbian minority in the Republic of Croatia (2 employees)

Financing in the area of music and the performing arts

- 1) **Institute for Ethnology and Folklore Research, Zagreb:**
Production of the CD “Musical Heritage of national minorities in Croatia”
(HRK 30,000)
- 2) **Concert Directorate Zagreb:**
37th International Folklore Festival (topic of the Festival: “National Minorities in the Republic of Croatia”, HRK 600,000)
- 3) **Cultural Centre of Roma in Croatia - Romano Centro, Zagreb**
Participation of Mr. Kasum Cana in the European Festival of Roma and Sinti Music, and in the Conference on the Roma and the Sinti Holocaust in Berlin (HRK 8,000)
- 4) **“Beyahad”, Jewish Cultural Scene, Zagreb**
Beyahad 2003, Hvar (HRK 20,000)
- 5) **Serbian Cultural Society “Prosvjeta”, Zagreb Subcommittee, Theatrical studio EHO, Zagreb**
Visiting performance in Serbia and Montenegro (HRK 5,500)

Financing of the publishing of books and literary magazines

In 2003, the Ministry of Culture financially supported several national minority programmes in the Republic of Croatia:

a) through the co-financing of the publication of books:

1. **The humanitarian organisation World Organisation of Roma in Croatia, Zagreb:**
Ivan Rumbak: *Potrebe/problemi Romske populacije u Republici Hrvatskoj (Needs / problems of the Roma Population in the Republic of Croatia)* (HRK 10,000)
2. **Croatian-Montenegrin Friendship Society “Croatica – Montenegrina”, Osijek:**
A group of authors: *Perojski kulturno-povijesni mozaik (Cultural and Historical Mosaic of Peroj)* (HRK 10,000)
3. **“Jednota” – press and publishing house, Daruvar:**
A group of authors: *Naš Josef Matušek (Our Josef Matušek)* (HRK 10,000)
4. **Archbishop’s Ordinariate of Vrhbosna – Vicariate for the Displaced, Zagreb:**
Franjo Marić: *Vrhbosanska nadbiskupija početkom III. tisućljeća (The Archbishopric of Vrhbosna at the Beginning of the Third Millennium)* (HRK 40,000)
5. **Jewish Community Zagreb, Zagreb:**

Jasminka Domaš: *Amsterdam* (HRK 10,000)

6. Union of Roma of Croatia, Zagreb:

Snjeguljica i 7 patuljaka (Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs) HRK 10,000

Alisa u zemlji čuda (Alice in Wonderland) HRK 10,000

in total: HRK 20,000

b) through the purchase of books:

1. Society of Hungarian Scientists and Artists in Croatia, Zagreb:

A group of authors: *Zrinski i Europa ½ (Zrinski and Europe ½)* (HRK 13,000)

2. Croatian-Austrian Society for Fostering Cultural and Economic Relations, Zagreb:

Erhard Busek: *Austrija i jugoistočna Europa (Austria and South Eastern Europe)* (HRK 16,000)

3. Croatian Macedonian Society, Zagreb:

Tomislav Premerl: *Nastajanje u suncu (Establishment in the Sun)* (HRK 12,000)

4. Cultural Society “ZAUBERER”, Osijek:

Lujo Plein: *DIE ESSEKERISCHE SPRECHART* (HRK 4,500)

5. Serbian Cultural Society “Prosvjeta”, Zagreb:

Bartulović, Niko: *Glas iz gorućeg grma*
(*A Voice from the Burning Bush*) HRK 30,000

Kaser, Karel: *Popis Like i Krbave 1712. godine*
(*The 1712 Census in Lika and Krbava*) HRK 20,000

Petrović, Đorđe: *Buna u Banovini u Klasniću*
(*The Uprising in Banovina and Klasnić*) HRK 8,000

Rumenjak, Nives: *Srpski zastupnici u banskoj Hrvatskoj*
(*Serbian Representatives in Civil Croatia*) HRK 10,000

Višnjčić, Čedomir: *Partizansko ljetovanje (Partisan Summer Holiday)* HRK 18,000

Total: HRK 86,000

12. Macedonian Community in the Republic of Croatia, Zagreb:

Blagoja Jovanovski: *Hrvatsko-makedonski odnosi kroz stoljeća (Croatian-Macedonian*

Relations through the Centuries) (HRK 2,500)

c) through the co-financing of magazine publishing:

13. Cultural Society “Miroslav Šalom Freiberger”, Zagreb:

Magazine *NOVI OMANUT* (HRK 50,000)

In 2005, the Ministry of Culture provided HRK 5.4 million for different aspects of cultural development and for the cultural needs of 14 national minorities in the Republic of Croatia. The funds were approved by the competent cultural councils and commissions based on applications submitted by individuals, NGOs, cultural centres or minority communities in the Republic of Croatia.

In 2004, the following funds from the state budget were allocated for the needs of programmes dealing with cultural development and art:

Publishing/events	Institution / organisation	Minority	Purpose	Amount allocated
1	2	3	4	5
Co-financing of the publication of magazines	Cultural Society “Miroslav Šalom Freiberger”	Jewish	Co-financing of the magazine “Novi omanut”	40,000
Co-financing of literary events	Croatian-Israeli Society	Jewish	Celebrations of holidays, literary evenings and commemorations	12,000
	Association “Dr. Safvet-beg Bašagić”	Bosniak	Symposium on Dr. Safvet-beg Bašagić	8,000
	Community of Serbs in Rijeka	Serbian	Croatian Carousel – Demographic Truth about Serbs in Croatia	4,000
Purchase of books	Serbian Cultural Society “Prosvjeta”	Serbian	D. Roksandić: Etnos, konfesija, tolerancija (<i>Ethnos, Confession, Tolerance</i>)	22,500
	Serbian Cultural Society “Prosvjeta”	Serbian	Č. Višnjić: Kordunaški proces (<i>The Kordun Process</i>)	22,500
	Serbian Cultural Society “Prosvjeta”	Serbian	D. Roksandić: Libido	20,000
	Serbian Cultural Society “Prosvjeta”	Serbian	Đ. Nešić: Luk i voda (<i>Piece of Cake</i>)	12,000
	Serbian Cultural Society “Prosvjeta”	Serbian	S. Galogaža: Čudne siluete (<i>Strange Silhouettes</i>)	10,000
	Serbian Cultural Society “Prosvjeta”	Serbian	Zbornik radova o Vladanu Desnici (<i>Collection of Papers on Vladan Desnica</i>)	10,000

Publishing/events	Institution / organisation	Minority	Purpose	Amount allocated
	Humanitarian organisation – World Organisation of Roma in Croatia	Roma	I. Rumbak: Progoni Roma kroz povijest do 1945. (<i>Persecutions of Roma until 1945</i>)	15,000
	Prosvjeta d.o.o.	Serbian	T. Ware: Povijest ortodoksne crkve (<i>History of the Orthodox Church</i>)	15,000
Total				191,000

Theatre and Musical Performances

Theatre/music	Institution / organisation	Minority	Purpose	Amount allocated
1	2	3	4	5
Amateur theatre	Drama Group "Zauberer"	German	Preparation of the play "Konobarica"	4,000
	Union of Czechs in the Republic of Croatia	Czech	Festival of Amateur Drama Groups in Ljudevit Selo	8,000
	Serbian Cultural Society "Prosvjeta"	Serbian	Drama studio EHO – performance of "Pretapanja"	8,000
Amateur music performance	Union of Czechs in the Republic of Croatia	Czech	Harvesting festivities (events and festivals)	10,000
Total				30,000

Archival activities

	Institution / organisation	Minority	Purpose	Amount allocated
1	2	3	4	5
Archives	Jewish Community Zagreb	Jewish	Jewish Biographical Lexicon	20,000
	Research and Documentation Centre, Zagreb	Jewish	Collection of material on Jews in Croatia – Database on the victims of the Holocaust	20,000
Total				40,000

In 2004, the Government of the Republic of Croatia, through the Ministry of Culture, disbursed funds for the financing of national minority programmes in a total amount of HRK 5,300,526.22, and in 2005, the following amounts were allocated for the needs of individual national minorities:

<i>Minorities</i>	<i>Amount allocated</i>
Albanian minority	135,223.99
Austrian minority	121,913.38
Bosniak minority	10,000.00
Montenegrin minority	27,900.00
Czech minority	233,676.04
Hungarian minority	129,253.48
Ruthenian and Ukrainian minority	127,580.09
Slovak minority	127,645.90
Slovenian minority	119,051.18
Serbian minority	3,503,247.09
Jewish minority	705,000.00
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>5,403,463.39</i>

Pursuant to the criteria within the information and publishing programmes, funds from the state budget of the Republic of Croatia are used to financially assist the publication of daily, weekly, monthly and annual magazines in the languages of national minorities.

Funds to the amount of HRK 4,300,000 have been earmarked in the state budget of the Republic of Croatia of 2006 for the members of the Italian national minority to publish in the Italian language the daily "La voce del popolo", the bimonthly "Panorama", the children's monthly magazine "Arcobaleno", and the quarterly "La battana".

Funds to the amount of HRK 1,546,000 have been earmarked in the state budget of the Republic of Croatia of 2006 for the publication in the Czech language of the weekly

“Jednota”, the children’s monthly “Detski koutek”, and two annual magazines, “Češki lidovi calendar” and “Prehled”.

Funds to the amount of HRK 178,500 have been earmarked in the state budget of the Republic of Croatia of 2006 for the members of the Slovak national minority to publish in the Slovakian language the monthly “Pramen”, as well as four books.

Funds to the amount of HRK 1,360,000 have been earmarked in the state budget of the Republic of Croatia of 2006 for the Hungarian national minority through two Hungarian associations to publish in the Hungarian language two weekly magazines, “Ui Magjar Kepes Uisag” and “Horvatorszagi Magyar Naplo”, the monthly “Horvatorszagi Magyarsag”, the quarterly for children “Barkoca”, and the annual “Evkonyv”.

Funds to the amount of HRK 285,700 have been earmarked in the state budget of the Republic of Croatia of 2006 for members of the Ruthenian and Ukrainian minority through two associations to publish in Ruthenian and Ukrainian the quarterly “Nova dumka”, the monthly “Naša gazeta” and the quarterly children’s magazine “Vjenčić”.

Funds to the amount of HRK 3,505,000 have been earmarked in the state budget of the Republic of Croatia of 2006 within the information and publishing programmes, through four Serbian NGOs, for members of the Serbian national minority to publish the weekly “Novosti”, the bimonthly “Prosvjeta, three monthly magazines under the titles “Identitet”, “Naša stvarnost” and “Bijela pčela” – a children’s magazine, and ten books in Serbian.

Funds to the amount of HRK 97,000 have been earmarked in the state budget of the Republic of Croatia of 2006 for the members of the German and Austrian national minority to conduct a programme of information by publishing in German the quarterly “Deutsches Wort”.

Funds to the amount of HRK 167,000 have been earmarked in the state budget of the Republic of Croatia of 2006 through two NGOs for the members of the Jewish national minority to publish two bimonthly magazines “Ha-kol” and “Novi omanut”.

Funds to the amount of 150,000 have been earmarked in the state budget of the Republic of Croatia through two NGOs for members of the Slovenian national minority to publish in Slovenian the monthly information bulletin “Planika” and the four-monthly magazine “Novi odmev”.

Funds to the amount of HRK 170,000 have been earmarked in the state budget of the Republic of Croatia of 2006 for members of the Albanian national minority to publish in Albanian the monthly “Informatore”, and two books.

Funds to the amount of HRK 719,000 have been earmarked in the state budget of the Republic of Croatia of 2006 within the information and publishing programmes, through three Bosniak NGOs, for members of the Bosniak national minority to issue two monthly magazines “Preporodov journal” and “SABAH”, the bimonthly “Behar”, the magazine “Bošnjačka pismohrana”, the biannual children’s magazine “Jasmin”, and several book titles.

Funds to the amount of HRK 346,000 have been earmarked in the state budget of the Republic of Croatia of 2006 within the information and publishing programmes, through three Roma NGOs, for members of the Roma national minority to issue the bimonthly “Mladi za

mlade”, the quarterly “Romengo čaćipe”, the quarterly “Anglunipe-budućnost”, and a book and a picture book for Romani children.

Funds to the amount of HRK 198,000 have been earmarked in the state budget of the Republic of Croatia of 2006 for the Macedonian national minority to conduct the programme of information and publishing by issuing the bimonthly “Makedonski glas” and four book titles.

Funds to the amount of HRK 290,000 have been earmarked in the state budget of the Republic of Croatia of 2006 for members of the Montenegrin national minority to conduct the programme of information and publishing by issuing the bimonthly “Crnogorski glasnik” and nine book titles.

Funds to the amount of HRK 40,000 have been earmarked in the state budget of the Republic of Croatia of 2006 for members of the Bulgarian national minority to conduct the programme of information by publishing the bilingual quarterly magazine “Rodna riječ” in Bulgarian and Croatian.

In addition to these programmes, financing was provided from the state budget for programmes based on bilateral agreements, expert assistance programmes for civic trust-building, and programmes to set the preconditions for achieving cultural autonomy.

In August 2006, the Croatian Government launched the website of the National Programme for the Roma and the Action Plan of the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015 in Croatian, Romani and English. This website for the Roma will facilitate information flow between state administration bodies and the Romani national minority. The two abovementioned documents adopted by the Croatian Government will also be systematically monitored. ---

Article 13 ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL LIFE

- *from Article 13* paragraph 1
- subparagraph a)

Compliance with the provisions of Article 13 of the Charter has also been regulated by the mentioned Act on the Use of Languages and Script of National Minorities in the Republic of Croatia. This legal act (Article 12) also introduces the possibility of regulating economic and social life. However, interest has not been shown in using a minority language when concluding a contract on employment.

Business entities operating in areas where a minority language or script is in equal official use may freely use the minority language in their operations. Such cases generally occur in areas where Italian is an equal official language. The competent authorities have no knowledge of complaints arising from the lack of use, or prevention of the use, of a minority language and script in equal official use.

The provisions of Article 13 of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages are applied in such a way that there is no legal regulation related to labour law which would in any way prohibit the use of minority languages.

It must be stressed in relation to the above that in recent years neither the Croatian Employment Bureau within the scope of its competence, nor the Labour and Labour Market Directorate of the Ministry of the Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship has received any request in a national minority language and script which would have required the issuing of administrative acts in a minority language or script.

Specific public companies that operate in areas where a minority language or script has equal official status use minority languages in dealing with customers. Thus, in the area of the County of Istria, in municipalities and towns where Italian is in equal official use, Croatian Post uses inscriptions and information in Italian. The Croatian Electric Company – HEP – has envisaged in its internal regulations as one of the conditions for employment in jobs that require direct contact with customers, among other things, an active command of Italian to facilitate communication with Italian speakers.

By its internal acts, the Croatian Electricity Company requires active knowledge of Italian language as one of the conditions for the employment on jobs which include working with clients is, with a view to facilitating communication to the speakers of Italian language.

Article 14 TRANSFRONTIER COOPERATION

One of the novelties to be mentioned concerning transfrontier cooperation compared with the previous reporting period is that the Republic of Croatia in November 2004 concluded an Agreement between the Republic of Croatia and Serbia and Montenegro on the Protection of the Rights of the Croatian Minority in Serbia and Montenegro and the Serbian and Montenegrin Minority in the Republic of Croatia (*Sporazum između Republike Hrvatske i Srbije i Crne Gore o zaštiti prava hrvatske manjine u Srbiji i Crnoj Gori i srpske i crnogorske manjine u Republici Hrvatskoj* -Official Gazette – International Agreements no. 3/05). In this Agreement, the States Parties undertook to grant to minority members, in conformity with their internal legislation, the right of expression, the right to preserve and develop their national, cultural, linguistic and religious identity, as well as the right to maintain and develop minority schooling, i.e. education, and the media, and to pursue the specific interests of minority members.

As an example of international cultural cooperation, we may mention the participation of the members of the Romani national minority in the “Gipsy Friend” competition in Italy, as well as the visit of the Centre for Cultural Decontamination from Belgrade to the Council of the Serbian National Minority in Rijeka as an example of cooperation with the Serbian national minority.

Examples of cooperation between Croatian towns and towns in other countries are still in place, and the following agreements have been concluded:

1. City of Crikvenica – City of Saint-Dié-des-Vosges (France)
2. County of Koprivnica-Križevci and the County of Međimurje – Province of Styria (Austria)
3. City of Rijeka – City of Genoa (Italy)
4. County of Split-Dalmatia – Autonomous Region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia (Italy)
5. City of Šibenik – City of Civitanova Marche (Italy)

6. City of Bjelovar – City of Ribiere (Italy)
7. Municipality of Punat – Municipality of Forcola (Italy)
8. City of Varaždin – City of Ptuj (Slovenia)
9. City of Samobor – City of Pécs (Hungary)
10. City of Osijek – Municipality of Subotica (Serbia)
11. City of Omiš – City of Havirov (Czech Republic)
12. City of Jasterbarsko – Municipality of Sungurlare (Bulgaria)
13. Municipality of Sukošan – City of Szentlőrinc (Hungary)
14. County of Karlovac – Federal Province of Steiermark (Austria)
15. City of Opatija – Municipality of Ilirska Bistrica (Slovenia)
16. County of Sisak-Moslavina – Municipality of Sežana (Slovenia)
17. City of Križevci – City of Nagytad (Hungary)
18. City of Vukovar – Municipality of Bač (Serbia)

Conclusion

Within the reporting period, the Republic of Croatia has continued to upgrade its legislative framework relating to the protection and promotion of the rights of national minorities. This included the adoption of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities in the Republic of Croatia in 2002, which comprehensively regulates the rights of national minorities, including their rights to cultural autonomy.

The right to use a minority language and script is being additionally upgraded, so that particular provisions of the Constitutional Act amend the Act on the Use of Languages and Script of National Minorities in the Republic of Croatia, thus expanding overall rights, and reducing the legislative criteria for the introduction of the equal official status of minority languages.

The exercise of national minorities' rights is financed from the state budget, and the amount of funds allocated for this purpose has been increasing year by year. The total funds earmarked for the needs of national minorities in 2005 show a 33% growth over those in 2004.

Permanent cooperation has been established with members of national minorities, both through the Office for National Minorities and competent bodies on one hand, and through the Council for National Minorities in the Republic of Croatia on the other hand. The latter Council is a special body for national minorities at state level established by the Constitutional Act.

The Government of the Republic of Croatia will continue to cooperate with the competent bodies of the Council of Europe and other international institutions in order to improve the position of national minorities.

As part of the measures to improve the judicial and administrative system and the educational system, special activities and programmes will be conducted focusing on the education and competence building of all bodies authorised to implement international documents. Necessary measures undertaken to ensure international standards concerning the protection and the exercise of rights of national minorities at all levels will continue.

Aware of the danger of assimilating speakers of minority languages, and in an attempt to preserve minority languages as a special cultural value, the Republic of Croatia, in cooperation with institutions and national minority associations, will undertake measures for the protection of minority languages and provide incentives for the members of national minorities to learn and use their mother tongue in conformity with the views expressed in the Recommendations of the Committee of Ministers.