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Addendum 2

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

***Replies to Comments/questions
submitted to the Government of Croatia
regarding its Third Periodical Report***

Preliminary Section

1. Before the Republic of Croatia became independent, the Constitution of the former state guaranteed the status of a constitutive nation to Croats, Serbs, Slovenes, Montenegrins, Macedonians and Bosniaks (which were at that time called "Muslims"). The status of a national minority in the former state was enjoyed by: Italians, Hungarians, Czechs, Slovaks, Ruthenians, the Roma, Ukrainians, Albanians, Vlachs and Jews.

After independence, the Republic of Croatia granted the status of a national minority to the existing national minorities and to all the constitutive nations from the territory of the former state. With the adoption of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities, which recognised the status of a national minority to each ethnic group guided by the wish for the preservation of its special characteristics, the number of national minorities in Croatia increased, so there are 22 national minorities in Croatia today.

On the basis of the Constitution of the former state and the Public Administration Act, which was then in force, in 1981 the Decree on the manner of, and the conditions for the use of languages and scripts of national minorities in proceedings before public administration bodies and organisations vested with public authority was passed (*Official Gazette*, no. 5/81), which enabled the use of the Italian, Hungarian, Czech, Slovak, Ruthenian and Ukrainian languages, under certain conditions, both in local government units and before state administration bodies. The use of minority languages before judicial bodies was, in general, governed by procedural rules. When it comes to the languages mentioned, the Republic of Croatia recognised the existence of acquired rights of these national minorities and made a declaration on the application of the European Charter for Regional Languages in respect of them. A declaration on the application of the Charter was also made in respect of the Serbian language, due to the large number of members of the Serbian national minority in the territory of the Republic of Croatia, who were traditionally settled in certain areas. Other national minorities, which acquired this status when the Republic of Croatia became independent (constitutive nations in the former state) are, as a rule, dispersed over the entire territory of the Republic of Croatia, where they settled mostly as a result of migrations within the territory of the former state. There are only some minor exceptions in border areas relating to the Slovene and Bosniak national minority.

The Republic of Croatia is a democratic and parliamentary state. The Constitution of the Republic of Croatia guarantees the right of citizens to local self-government. The Republic of Croatia was established on the basis of the principle of the separation of powers. The supreme body of the legislative power is the Croatian Parliament, the President of the Republic and the Government of the Republic of Croatia are the supreme bodies of the executive power, and the supreme body of the judicial power is the Supreme Court of the Republic of Croatia. The Constitution has provided for the establishment of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Croatia, as an independent body, whereas for the protection of citizens' rights in administrative proceedings, the Constitution provides for the Ombudsman, as an independent institution.

Pursuant to the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia, municipalities and towns are established as units of local self-government, and counties as units of regional self-government. The City of Zagreb, the capital of the Republic of Croatia, has a special position under the Constitution.

Pursuant to the Act on the Territories of Counties, Towns and Municipalities in the Republic of Croatia (*Official Gazette*, no. 86/06, 125/06-corr.), the territory of the Republic of Croatia is divided into 20 counties and the City of Zagreb, which pursuant to a special law has the status of both a town and a county. In addition to them, 127 towns and 429 municipalities have been established.

Counties	Gross domestic product, mil. HRK	Gross domestic product mil. EUR	Gross domestic product mil. USD	Structure by counties, % (Croatia=100)	Gross domestic product per capita, HRK	Gross domestic product per capita, EUR	Gross domestic product per capita, USD	Index (Croatia=100)
Republic of Croatia	214 983	28 683	35 620	100.0	48 426	6 461	8 024	100.0
Zagreb	11 532	1 539	1 911	5.4	36 200	4 830	5 998	74.8
Krapina-Zagorje	4 639	619	769	2.2	33 195	4 429	5 500	68.5
Sisak-Moslavina	6 544	873	1 084	3.0	36 064	4 812	5 975	74.5
Karlovac	4 940	659	818	2.3	35 784	4 774	5 929	73.9
Varaždin	7 568	1 010	1 254	3.5	41 478	5 534	6 872	85.7
Koprivnica-Križevci	5 373	717	890	2.5	43 891	5 856	7 272	90.6
Bjelovar-Bilogora	4 652	621	771	2.2	35 832	4 781	5 937	74.0
Primorje-Gorski Kotar	16 808	2 243	2 785	7.8	55 080	7 349	9 126	113.7
Lika-Senj	3 235	432	536	1.5	61 431	8 196	10 178	126.9
Virovitica-Podravina	3 214	429	533	1.5	35 264	4 705	5 843	72.8
Požega-Slavonia	2 923	390	484	1.4	34 436	4 594	5 706	71.1
Brod-Posavina	4 942	659	819	2.3	28 161	3 757	4 666	58.2
Zadar	6 361	849	1 054	3.0	38 088	5 082	6 311	78.7
Osijek-Baranja	12 198	1 627	2 021	5.7	37 238	4 968	6 170	76.9
Šibenik-Knin	3 956	528	655	1.8	34 786	4 641	5 764	71.8
Vukovar-Srijem	5 532	738	917	2.6	27 482	3 667	4 553	56.8
Split-Dalmatia	18 213	2 430	3 018	8.5	38 426	5 127	6 367	79.3
Istria	13 901	1 855	2 303	6.5	66 280	8 843	10 982	136.9
Dubrovnik-Neretva	5 680	758	941	2.6	45 747	6 104	7 580	94.5
Međimurje	4 457	595	738	2.1	37 645	5 023	6 237	77.7
City of Zagreb	68 315	9 114	11 319	31.8	87 396	11 660	14 480	180.5

Brod-Posavina County has a population of 172,993, which is by 2,005 inhabitants or 1.15% less than in 1991. The share of the population of Brod-Posavina County in the total population of the Republic of Croatia (4,381,352) is 3.95%. The average population density is 84.68 persons per 1 km².

When it comes to the administrative and territorial organisation, the county consists of 2 towns, 26 municipalities and 185 settlements. A total of 79,004 inhabitants or 45.67% lives in towns, of which Slavonski Brod, as the centre of the county, has 63,268 inhabitants, and Nova Gradiška 15,736 inhabitants. The number of people living in rural communities is 93,989 or 54.33% of the total population of the county.

Vukovar-Srijem County. In the 1991 Census this county had a population of 231,241. During the 1991 aggression against the Republic of Croatia, a large part of the County was occupied. The Croatian and other non-Serb population were expelled from the settlements in that area. There are still many displaced persons who have not returned, so the population of this county has fallen and in the 2001 Census it was 197,838.

Vukovar-Srijem County has 84 settlements, which in organisational terms, include 5 towns (Vukovar, Ilok, Vinkovci, Županja and Otok) and 26 municipalities. A special characteristic of this area is the presence of many large villages with several thousand inhabitants.

The most recent census in the Republic of Croatia was taken in 2001. The data relevant for the demographic and ethnic structure of the population are given below. The law provides that a census is taken every ten years, so we do not have more recent data available.

Population by national affiliation in 2001				
Republic of Croatia – Total	4 437 460	100.0	2 135 900	2 301 560
Croats	3 977 171	89.6	1,912,953	2,064,218
National minorities				
Total	331 383	7.5	158.990	172.393
Albanians	15 082	0.3	8,653	6,429
Austrians	247	0.0	100	147
Bosniaks	20 755	0.5	10,896	9,859
Bulgarians	331	0.0	157	174
Montenegrins	4 926	0.1	2,738	2,188
Czechs	10 510	0.2	4,930	5,580
Hungarians	16 595	0.4	7,482	9,113
Macedonians	4 270	0.1	2,018	2,252
Germans	2 902	0.1	1,254	1,648
Poles	567	0.0	116	451
the Roma	9 463	0.2	4,777	4,686
Romanians	475	0.0	203	272
Russians	906	0.0	174	732
Ruthenians	2 337	0.1	1,125	1,212
Slovaks	4 712	0.1	2,180	2,532
Slovenes	13 173	0.3	4,215	8,958
Serbs	201 631	4.5	97,481	104,150
Italians	19 636	0.4	9,210	10,426
Turks	300	0.0	183	117
Ukrainians	1 977	0.0	832	1,145
Vlachs	12	0.0	7	5
Jews	576	0.0	259	317
Other	21 801	0.5	11,267	10,534
Did not declare themselves in terms of national affiliation				
Total	89 130	2.0	43,537	45,593
Regional affiliation	9 302	0.2	4,757	4,545
Unknown	17 975	0.4	9,153	8,822

Note:

In the 2001 Census 19,677 citizens declared themselves as Muslims

Population by mother tongue, 2001 Census

	Total	%
Republic of Croatia – Total	4 437 460	100.0
Croatian	4 265 081	96.1
Croato-Serbian or Serbo-Croatian	7 015	0.2
Serbian	44 629	1.0
Macedonian	3 534	0.1
Slovene	11 872	0.3
Albanian	14 621	0.3
Czech	7 178	0.2
Hungarian	12 650	0.3
Roma	7 860	0.2
Ruthenian	1 828	0.0
Slovak	3 993	0.1
Italian	20 521	0.5
Ukrainian	1 027	0.0
Other languages	18 942	0.4
Unknown	16 709	0.4

Note: Data obtained from the Central Bureau of Statistics

Data on the number of members of national minorities in Croatia

In the 2001 Census, conducted by the Central Bureau of Statistics, there were 331,383 members of national minorities in the Republic of Croatia, which accounted for 7.47% of the total population. Below you can find a list of national minorities to whom the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages applies.

Italians

In 2001 19,636 members of the Italian national minority were recorded in the Republic of Croatia. The majority of Italians live in the territories of Istria (14,284), Primorsko-Gorska (3,539) and Požega-Slavonia (788) counties.

Czechs

In 2001 10,510 members of the Czech national minority were recorded in the Republic of Croatia. The majority of Czechs live in the territories of Bjelovar-Bilogora (7,098) and Požega-Slavonia (775) counties, and in the City of Zagreb (813).

Slovaks

In 2001 4,712 members of the Slovak national minority were recorded in the Republic of Croatia. The majority of Slovaks live in the territories of Osijek-Baranja (2,155), Vukovar-Srijem (1,338) and Sisak-Moslavina (243) counties.

Hungarians

In 2001 16,595 members of the Hungarian national minority were recorded in the Republic of Croatia. The majority of Hungarians live in the territories of Osijek-Baranja (9,784), Vukovar-Srijem (2,047) and Bjelovar-Bilogora (1,188) counties.

Ruthenians

In 2001 2,337 members of the Ruthenian national minority were recorded in the Republic of Croatia. The majority of Ruthenians live in the territories of Vukovar-Srijem (1,796) and Osijek-Baranja (127) counties.

Ukrainians

After Croatia and Ukraine were established as independent and sovereign states, there have been no major emigration flows of Ukrainians from Ukraine and other countries to Croatia, with the exception of a very small number of Ukrainian men and women who settled directly from today's Ukraine. They got married in Croatia and are gradually becoming involved in the activities of the Ukrainian community in Croatia. After the most recent census (2001) we have considerably fewer Ukrainians in the Republic of Croatia, who live in almost all parts of Croatia, but there are only two thousand of them. An overview of Ukrainians settled in the Republic of Croatia is given below:

1.	City of Zagreb	333
2.	Zagreb County	62
3.	Krapina-Zagorje County	3
4.	Sisak-Moslavina County	309
5.	Karlovac County	20
6.	Varaždin County	15
7.	Koprivnica-Križevci County	11
8.	Bjelovar-Bilogora County	10
9.	Primorje-Gorski Kotar County	87
10.	Lika-Senj County	5
11.	Virovitica-Podravina County	9
12.	Požega-Slavonia County	23
13.	Brod-Posavina County	320
14.	Zadar County	24
15.	Osijek-Baranja County	78
16.	Šibenik-Knin County	15
17.	Vukovar-Srijem County	476
18.	Split-Dalmatia County	49
19.	Istria County	78
20.	Dubrovnik-Neretva County	18
21.	Međimurje County	32
<i>TOTAL IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA</i>		<i>1,977</i>

It is important to emphasise that both in the preceding period and nowadays Ukrainians from Croatia, in addition to the already existing religious communities (the Greek Catholic Church – almost in every major settlement where Ukrainians live), have also established other aspects and forms of self-organisation, such as cultural societies, which not only gather members of the Ukrainian national minority in the Republic of Croatia, but through these cultural societies Ukrainians in the Republic of Croatia also exercise their right to cultural autonomy. Thus, since the year 1968, they have had their Federation, a co-ordinating and advisory central organisation with the seat in Vukovar, which has its members, i.e. organised cultural and educational or cultural clubs in Rijeka, Zagreb, Lipovljani, Šumeća, Kaniža, Slavonski Brod, Petrovci, Osijek, Vinkovci and Vukovar. There are literary, music, dancing and other groups performing their activities within these societies. The societies also prepare various cultural events and show their rich Ukrainian culture, tradition and customs. These activities, carried out through cultural amateurism and other aspects of work, have become part of their overall life and work in this region, in their new homeland.

Ukrainian classes have been formed at Croatian primary schools in Vukovar, Petrovci, Šumeća, Kaniža, Slavonski Brod, Lipovljani and Zagreb. Every year, a Summer School is organised in Croatia for primary and secondary school students, especially for those who have not had an opportunity to study, during regular classes, the Ukrainian language and literature, history, geography and, in general, the culture of their original homeland, Ukraine. At the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Zagreb there is the Department for the Ukrainian Language and Literature, and opportunities are also offered for receiving higher education at universities and faculties in Ukraine.

When it comes to information and publishing activities, Ukrainians of Croatia read publications from Croatia, from Ukraine and from the neighbouring countries in which the Ukrainian *diaspora*

also lives. Many of them have access to the Internet, through which they can obtain current, varied and important information on Ukraine and Ukrainians all over the world (more than 20 million Ukrainians live beyond the borders of Ukraine). In Zagreb, there is the Central Ukrainian Library with modest library holdings including books, magazines, audio and video records. Since 1995 the Ukrainian Embassy and Consulate have been located in Zagreb, and an honorary consulate has recently been opened in Zadar. Along with Ukrainian cultural societies, there is also the Croatian-Ukrainian Friendship Society and the Association of Ukrainists performing their activities in Zagreb. New Ukrainian societies have recently been founded, whose operations and activities contribute to the improvement and development of the Ukrainian culture and education in these parts.

This year (2004), Ukrainians of Croatia, pursuant to the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities, established their Co-ordinating Committee of the Ukrainian National Minority in the Republic of Croatia with the seat in Zagreb. Councils of the Ukrainian national minority are active in Petrovci, the town of Vukovar, the municipalities of Bebrina and Lipovljani and representatives of the Ukrainian national minority perform their activities in the towns of Zagreb and Slavonski Brod and in Vukovar-Srijem and Brod-Posavina counties. The Co-ordinating Committee of the Ukrainian National Minority was founded with the purpose of establishing links between Councils and representatives of the Ukrainian national minority in the Republic of Croatia, enabling them to jointly co-ordinate and enhance their common interests and exercise their rights and responsibilities. One of its functions is also to provide for their joint appearance before the bodies of state, local, territorial (regional) government and self-government.

Serbs

In 2001 201,631 members of the Serbian national minority were recorded in the Republic of Croatia. The majority of Serbs live in the territories of Vukovar-Srijem (31,644), Osijek-Baranja (28,866), Sisak-Moslavina (21,617) and Karlovac (15,651) counties.

Slovenes

In 2001 13,173 members of the Slovene national minority were recorded in the Republic of Croatia. The majority of Slovenes live in the territories of the City of Zagreb (3,225), Primorje-Gorski Kotar (2,883) and Osijek-Baranja (2,020) counties.

Although members of the Slovene community live all over Croatia, their presence is stronger in the territory of Istria, Kvarner, Gorski Kotar and Međimurje, but they are mostly concentrated in towns – Zagreb, Rijeka, Pula, Split, Šibenik and Dubrovnik, where Slovene cultural societies are also active. In other municipalities and towns, members of the Slovene national minority have settled in smaller numbers. Members of the Slovene national minority, as well as members of any other national minority, enjoy all the rights guaranteed by the laws of the Republic of Croatia, especially the Constitutional Act on National Minorities, the Act on the Use of Languages and Scripts of National Minorities in the Republic of Croatia, and the Act on Education in the Languages and Scripts of National Minorities. The Republic of Croatia enabled them to exercise all the rights pertaining to them on account of their membership of a national minority, but not all national minorities express the same wish for the preservation of their cultural and other identity. For instance, the data relating to elections for councils and representatives of national minorities, which may be exercised by all members of national minorities with a specific share in the population (for more details see the Report) under the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities, show that of the total of 3,836 registered voters only 273 voters expressed interest in participating in the elections for councils or actually cast their votes. Councils of national minorities are institutions

created with the aim of the preservation of cultural and other characteristics, and ensuring the participation of minorities in public affairs.

However, not all national minorities in all local units have exercised the rights provided for by the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities, nor do they show the same interest in exercising specific minority rights that have been guaranteed to them.

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-GORSKA COUNTY: 2,883

Towns/municipalities:

Čabar: 79
Vrbovsko: 38
Klana: 41
Viškovo: 51
TOTAL: 209

5. ISTRIA COUNTY: 2,020

Towns/municipalities:

Buje: 157

Oprtalj: 13

TOTAL: 170

Pursuant to the provisions of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities, in May 2003 elections were held in the Republic of Croatia for councils and representatives of national minorities, whereas supplementary elections for councils and representatives of national minorities were held in February 2004. According to the criteria established by Constitutional Act, the Slovene national minority had the right to elect a total of 28 councils and 14 representatives in the entire territory of the Republic of Croatia. A total of 10 councils and 4 representatives were elected.

What should be particularly emphasised here is that no election thresholds have been set for the election of a council or representative, so it is virtually possible to elect a council or representative with only one vote. This shows that in 28 local units either no candidates were proposed or no one went to the polling station. The fact that in so many municipalities and towns members of the Slovene national minority totally abstained from exercising this right indicates that this was probably not the case of concentrated settlement. In particular, this is also confirmed by the fact that members of the Slovene national minority, a total 13,173 of them, exercised the right to elect a council and representative (on the basis of the criteria whereby this right is guaranteed even if there are only 100 inhabitants) in 42 local units in the Republic of Croatia.

This year, i.e. in 2007, second elections for councils and representatives of national minorities will be organised. The Government of the Republic of Croatia, in co-operation with representatives of national minorities, is carrying out activities aimed at encouraging members of national minorities to participate in these elections.

The Republic of Croatia does not impose any limitations whatsoever on the right of the Slovene national minority to use the Slovene language and to receive their education in Slovene. However, this national minority does not express sufficient interest, which is presumed to be due to the dispersion and small number of Slovenes in certain areas.

The Federation of Slovene Societies, whose seat is in Zagreb, organises Slovene language courses in the Slovene House (*Slovenski dom*). They are attended by both members of the Slovene national minority and other citizens interested in learning the Slovene language.

Question 1: Ukrainians live in the Municipality of Bogdanovci, to which the village of Petrovci belongs, and teaching is organised for them in Petrovci, where classes in the Ukrainian language are attended by 9 students, whereas those in the Ruthenian language are attended by 42 students. In the village of Bodanovci no need was shown for studying the Ukrainian language.

Question 2: According to the data of the state administration offices in counties relating to the school year 2006/2007, Slovene is not taught in Zagreb, Primorje-Gorski Kotar and Međimurje counties. Namely, the Federation of Slovene Societies in the Republic of Croatia, as the legitimate representative of Slovenes in Croatia, did not show interest for this form of teaching for their national minority on local level.

Question 3. The concept of "acquired rights" was explained in the Preliminary Section. Taking account of the acquired rights, the Act on the Use of Languages and Scripts of National Minorities provided that the right to use a minority language granted under the previous regulations was one of

the criteria for introducing that particular minority language in official use. In practice, the concept of "acquired rights" functions in all the communities where members of a national minority exercise the right to official use of their minority language, even when they do not meet the criteria laid down by the Act. The Report contains more detailed information about this.

The number of speakers of minority languages is indicated in the Preliminary Section. As already stated, the Republic of Croatia chose to apply the principle of open number of national minorities, based on their autonomous choice. Therefore, the Republic of Croatia does not define minority languages, but deems them to include all the languages spoken by members of national minorities as mother tongues.

4. In accordance with the declaration given on the ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, the Republic of Croatia does not consider minority languages to be related to any particular territory, independently of other criteria provided for by the law. The overview of speakers of minority languages is given in the Preliminary Section.

5. In addition of the conclusions of the Government of the Republic of Croatia presented in the Third Report on the Application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, the Government's policy on minorities, which includes this aspect as well, is also reflected in the conclusions contained in the Second Report on the Application of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities.

When it comes to the implementation of educational programmes for national minorities, consideration is currently given, in co-operation with representatives of minorities, to the existing models of education and the methods of their further adjustment to the actual needs of national minorities.

The use of languages and scripts of national minorities in judicial and administrative proceedings has, unfortunately, revealed a steady decline. Administrative and judicial bodies are prepared to accept the use of minority languages in proceedings, but the number of requests for equal official use of minority languages has been continually decreasing. For this reason, it will be necessary to design a campaign in the forthcoming period, in co-operation with associations of national minorities, to foster 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 by-laws adopted by local self-government units are in line with the legislation in force in this area and whether their bodies have acted in compliance with law.

Recommendation 3

Question 10: The Council for National Minorities on local level and the Federation of Ruthenians and Ukrainians should express their interest in introducing pre-school education in the Ruthenian and Ukrainian languages, if there is a need for this.

Question 11: Pre-school education in the Ruthenian and Ukrainian languages is not provided because no interest has been shown by the respective minorities.

Question 12: Model C classes are organised depending on the spatial, personnel and other conditions in a particular school and pupils' obligations, and are solved at school level.

Question 13: Pupils belonging to the Slovak, Ruthenian and Ukrainian minorities are dispersed at secondary school level and have so far taken no initiatives in learning their language and culture. Each such initiative will be supported by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports.

Recommendation 4

Question 14: Advisers for the Ruthenian and Ukrainian languages have not been elected or hired. The long-term structured policy on education and training for teachers as a whole is part of the National Strategy: The Plan for the Development of the Educational System for the Period 2005-2010, and the issue of advisers will be solved within that framework, according to needs.

Question 15: Financial contribution of the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports in 2006 for the translation and printing of textbooks in minority languages was HRK 1,632,000 for textbooks in the Serbian language, 619,250 for those in the Czech language, 149,500 for those in Slovak. For textbooks in the Serbian language approximately HRK 500,00 are provided for the same purposes. For the needs of the Italian national minority, 44 primary school textbooks and 5 secondary schools textbooks were translated in the period 2004-2007, whereas for the needs of the Serbian national minorities 47 primary school textbooks have been translated until 2007. All the national minorities may use original language textbooks, which are, however, subject to the approval by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports. For instance, 8 original textbooks are used for the needs of the Slovak national minority.

PART I

The following regulations are relevant for the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages: the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia (Article 12), the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities (Articles 9 to 18), the Act on the Use of Languages and Scripts of National Minorities in the Republic of Croatia, and the Act on Education of National Minorities.

In proceedings in which a party has the right to use his or her minority language, judicial bodies and other bodies of state administration inform the party about this right and make a note thereof in the case file. Preventing a party from using the minority language in proceedings constitutes a ground for appeal. However, no proceedings have been instituted by parties to request the protection of their right to use the minority language.

In the course of the preparation of the Third Report, all the national minorities to which the Charter applies were provided with the Recommendations and asked to co-operate and submit their reports. This invitation was responded to only by the Union of Slovaks, whose report is contained in the Third Report. In June 2006 a seminar was organised, in co-operation with the Committee of Experts, on the implementation of the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages and of the Recommendations adopted by the Committee of Experts, which was attended by representatives of all the minorities to which the Charter applies, as well as by representatives of the Slovene national minority.

2. In the Republic of Croatia, there are no separate specialised institutions responsible for the promotion, protection and development of minority languages. As stated above, state bodies and bodies of local and regional self-government are, as part of their duties and powers, obliged to take care of the compliance with the regulations governing minority languages.

Special care for the preservation of minority languages is taken by organisations and other associations of national minorities, when exercising their right to cultural autonomy. In relation to minority languages to which the Republic of Croatia applies the Charter, we are giving below the list of the relevant organisations.

The list of organisations of national minorities promoting minority languages

ITALIANS

Italian Union, Rijeka

Uljarska 1/1V
President Furio Radin

CZECHS

Union of Czechs in the Republic of Croatia, Daruvar

Trg Kralja Tomislava 7
President Leonora Janota

SLOVAKS

Union of Slovaks, Našice

Trg Kralja Zvonimira 5
President Andrej Kuric

HUNGARIANS

Democratic Union of Hungarians of Croatia, Osijek

Europske avenije 8/1
President Arpad Pasza

Federation of Hungarian Organisations, Beli Manastir

Augusta Cesarca 16
President Juhas Šandor

RUTHENIANS AND UKRAINIANS

Union of Ruthenians and Ukrainians in the Republic of Croatia, Vukovar

Vijeća Europe 93
President Slavko Burda

SERBS

Serbian Cultural Society "Prosvjeta", Zagreb

Berislavićeva 10
President Čedomir Višnjić

Serbian National Council, Zagreb

Preradovićeva 18/1
President Milorad Pupovac

Joint Council of Municipalities, Vukovar

Borovo naselje-Radnički dom
President Dragan Crnogorac

SLOVENES

Federation of Slovene Societies in the Republic of Croatia, Zagreb

Masarikova 16

President Darko Šonc

QUESTION 8: The report by the Government of the Republic of Croatia was adopted in August 2006 and in that report the Government of the Republic of Croatia concluded that it would reconsider the declaration given in relation to the territory of application of minority languages. No specific languages have been identified so far, but, as stated in the Report, the Government's position in this regard will be presented in the next periodical report.

QUESTION 16: The right of speakers of minority languages to use their own languages in relations with state administration bodies is governed by the Act on the Use of Languages and Scripts of National Minorities in the Republic of Croatia, which contains provisions on carrying out supervision and on measures that can be undertaken on the basis of the supervision carried out. The problems that have arisen so far in the implementation of this law have been successfully solved through direct contacts between the competent bodies and representatives of national minorities. For instance, the Ministry of the Interior has organised special opening hours for members of the Italian national minority during which an Italian-speaking staff member provides services to clients.

QUESTION 17: The installation and use of boards with the names of places and geographic localities falls within the competence of local self-government units, and not the Government of the Republic of Croatia. The central Office for Public Administration and other competent bodies may undertake appropriate measures under their supervisory powers.

In relation to Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services

QUESTION 42 The right to use regional or minority languages, were included in the Third Report by the Republic of Croatia on the Application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

QUESTION 43. First instance state administration bodies and organisational units of central state administration bodies conducting first instance proceedings, on whose territory the language and script of a national minority is in equal official use along with the Croatian language and Latin script, are obliged to inform parties from the territory of a municipality or town that have introduced in equal official use the language and script of a national minority about their right to use the language and script of that national minority in proceedings and enter in the minutes a statement specifying the language and script to be used by the party in the proceedings. If no minutes are taken in the proceedings, the party's declaration about the language he or she wishes to use or about a request for issuance of bilingual documents will be entered in the form of an official note.

If the first communication in the proceedings is sent to the party in the Croatian language and Latin script and in the language and script of a national minority declared to be in equal official use, the language and script in which the communication is delivered or in which the first submission is filed by the party will be deemed to be the language and script the party wishes to use in the proceedings.

Where a party has chosen to use the language and script of a national minority declared to be in equal official use, the body conducting the proceedings is obliged, in accordance with procedural

regulations, to make sure that the party is able to participate in the proceedings using the language and script of the national minority concerned. Written copies of the documents in the cases involving parties who have chosen to use the language and script of a national minority are to be sent to these parties in both the Croatian language and Latin script and the language and script used by the party in the proceedings.

Where parties in proceedings have chosen to use two or more languages and scripts declared to be in equal official use, the language and script to be used in proceedings along with the Croatian language and Latin script will be those on which the parties have reached an agreement. If no agreement has been reached, the language and script to be used in the proceedings will be the minority language and script used by the majority of the participants in these proceedings, and interpretation will be provided for other participants in proceedings. If it is impossible to ensure the use of the language and script of the national minority even in this way, the proceedings will be conducted only in the Croatian language and Latin script, with interpretation. The agreement on the language and script in which the proceedings are to be conducted, along with the Croatian language and script, is entered in the minutes or an official note is made in the case file, if no minutes are taken in that type or proceedings. The party and other participants in proceedings may choose to file submissions either in the Croatian language or in the language and script they use, declared to be in equal official use.

Letters, submissions and written copies of other acts passed in second instance proceedings are to be sent to the parties by first instance state administration bodies and organisational units of central state administration bodies conducting first instance proceedings in the Croatian language and Latin script and the language and script that were used in first instance proceedings. When carrying out their activities in the territory of a municipality or town where bilinguality or multilinguality (Croatian and minority languages) has been introduced, these bodies:

1. issue public documents,
2. print forms to be used for official purposes,
3. write the text on stamps and seals in the same print size,
4. produce name boards,
5. write document headings in the same print size.

QUESTION 44 In local and territorial (regional) self-government units whose statutes and other general acts provide for equal use of a minority language and script, provision has been made for bilingual printing of administrative texts or forms used for official purposes: in Croatian and in the minority language. This right is exercised by citizens and legal persons on their personal request.

In practice, these rights are more frequently exercised in local units in the territory of Osijek-Baranja County, e.g. in the territory of the Municipality of Kneževi Vinogradi and the Municipality of Šodolovci, and on the territory of Istria County, e.g. the municipalities of Grožnjan and Brtonigla.

However, it should be noted that the available data show that, in practice, in a large number of local units there have been no requests by citizens for issuance of public documents in the language and script of national minorities, or for bilingual printing of forms to be used for official purposes.

QUESTION_45 As an example of issuing various certificates in both the Croatian and minority language and script, we would like to mention the Municipality of Grožnjan where equal official use of the Italian language in the work of administrative bodies involves the following:

- forms, invitations, certificates, decisions and other individual acts addressed by administrative bodies to citizens, which as well as the text in the Croatian language must also contain the text in the Italian language,
- public notices, invitations and other notifications, which must contain the text in both the Croatian and the Italian language, and when published in local media they must be delivered in the Croatian and the Italian language,
- signs and markings in offices, which must be written in the Croatian and the Italian language,
- wedding ceremony is celebrated in the language or languages declared to be in equal official use in the territory of the Municipality of Grožnjan, subject to agreement of persons intending to enter into a marriage.

We would also like to refer to the example of the Municipality of Brtonigla where municipal bodies allow the use and recognise the validity of private legal documents made in the territory of the Republic of Croatia, even when they are written in the Italian language.

QUESTION 46 To ensure the equality of the Croatian language and a minority language, local self-government units may prescribe in their general acts that a requirement for certain jobs is not only the knowledge of the Croatian language, but also of the minority language. For instance, such requirement was prescribed by the Municipality of Grožnjan and the Municipality of Brtonigla, as well as institutions and legal persons founded by these two municipalities.

QUESTION 47 A minority language, as a working language of oral communication in local and territorial (regional) self-government units, is used on an equal footing with the Croatian language in the Municipality of Brtonigla (as mentioned in the questionnaire) and in the Municipality of Grožnjan.

As regards the use of the Ruthenian language, we would like to point out that the Statute of the Municipality of Tompojevci introduced equal use of the Ruthenian language for the area of the settlement of Mikluševci located in the Municipality of Tompojevci, where the majority of the population are Ruthenians (of the total population of 486 there are 359 Ruthenians).

Furthermore, the Municipality of Bogdanovci also regulated in its statute equal use of the Ruthenian language for the area of the settlement of Petrovci, where of the total population of 988 there are 549 Ruthenians.

Members of the Ukrainian national minority have a considerable share in the total population of the Municipality of Bogdanovci (7.4%), but pursuant to the provisions of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities there is no obligation to prescribe the use of the Ukrainian language by statute.

In such municipalities, where equal official use of the minority language and script is prescribed only for a specific area within the municipality, in practice it happens that, when officially corresponding with administrative bodies of the municipality, people use the Croatian language and Latin script.

We would like to point out that the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia, the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities, the Act on the Use of Languages and Scripts of National Minorities in the Republic of Croatia, and thus also the statutes of local and territorial self-government units, only provide for equal use of the Croatian language and script and

the minority language and script, without the possibility of introducing the exclusive use of the language and script of a national minority.

- **QUESTION 48** The need for realising the right to use the minority language and script varies from county to county in the Republic of Croatia, because in some counties members of national minorities do not have a significant share in the total population or members of national minorities do not show interest in using the minority language and script although this right is provided for by the statutes and other general acts of the local and territorial (regional) self-government units concerned.

We would like to point out that the improvement, preservation and protection of the position of national minorities in the Republic of Croatia is also ensured through the activities of various bodies, e.g. councils and representatives of national minorities, the Council for National Minorities, various organisations, etc., whose work is, amongst other things, aimed at motivating and encouraging members of national minorities to exercise their rights, and thus use their minority language and script.

Question 49

No county in the territory of the Republic of Croatia is obliged to prescribe in its statute equal use of the Croatian language and script and a minority language and script on county level on account of the share of members of national minority in its total population, because no national minority has a share in the total population of any county greater than 1/3.

Nevertheless, we would like to mention that the Office of State Administration in Istria County, acting in its capacity as the first instance body, implements the Act on the Use of Language and Script in its Pula headquarters and in its branch offices in towns where the language and script of the Italian national minority is in equal official use along with the Croatian language and Latin script by issuing bilingual certificates from the State Registers as well as other documents, if the parties so require.

Also, all stamps and seals of the Office contain the text written in both the Croatian and the Italian language, and the same applies to boards with the names of services, branch offices (Pula, Rovinj, Poreč, Umag, Buje) and registry offices (Pula, Rovinj, Poreč, Umag, Buje, Novigrad, Vodnjan).

- Question 50

As already stated, minority languages are considerably used in official documents or document headings, stamps and seals in two local and territorial (regional) self-government units located in the territories of municipalities and towns of Istria County.

PART II

Question 25: In 2006 the Ministry provided support for correspondence-consultative classes for the preservation of the Serbian language and granted funds amounting to HRK 170,000. According to the report by the Serbian Cultural Society "Prosvjeta", in 2005/2006 37 students completed such classes.

Question 26: In co-operation with schools at local level, the Council for National Minorities may launch initiatives for teaching minority languages to non-speakers, depending on personnel and other conditions, and the interest expressed.

PART III – Education

Question 30: Since the year 2000, when the new Act on Education in the Languages and Scripts of National Minorities was passed, there has been no minimum threshold for providing teaching of the language of a national minority.

Question 31: There are 50 students learning the Czech language in secondary school (general programme); teaching is provided by 5 Czech language teachers in 4 classes. In vocational and technical schools, the Slovak, Czech, Ukrainian and Ruthenian minorities have not expressed such need, because students are dispersed in different vocational programmes.

Additional explanations or answers to particular questions will be given during the visit of the Committee of Experts on the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

Article 11 – Media

Question 54

Year 2005

Pursuant to Article 5 of the Ordinance on the manner and procedure for implementing public tenders for the allocation of funds kept by the Fund for the Promotion of Pluralism and Diversity of the Electronic Media (*Official Gazette*, no. 170/04), the Council for Electronic Media, at its 44th session held on 10 May 2005, called a Public Tender No. 01/05 for the allocation of the Fund's funds.

The Council established that all television stations, 17 of them, and 93 radio stations submitted bids in response to the tender, which means that as many as 40 radio stations failed to exercise their right to do this for unknown reasons. Nevertheless, consideration of 110 bids was a very comprehensive and demanding work and Council members did their best to complete it to be able to enforce the first Decision on Allocation within the time limits prescribed by the law and subordinate regulations.

The Council concluded that the majority of radio and television broadcasters applied to the Fund's tender with the material from their current programme schemes, and that there were few new projects. The Council found offers to be very diverse in terms of quality and journalistic scope. In the Council's opinion, some offers noticeably stood out on account of their presentation and the quality of their programme material, and so deserved special attention, but there were also those which would hardly earn a passing grade.

In accordance with the Electronic Media Act, the Ordinance on the manner and procedure for implementing public tenders for the allocation of the Fund's funds and the Decision on the manner of evaluation of bids submitted in response to public tenders for the allocation of the Fund's funds, each Council member thoroughly examined all the bids and then, within working groups and at a series of working meetings, they conducted the analysis and evaluation procedure according to the criteria provided for by the Act, attentively assigning points in 6 very heterogeneous categories.

Following a complex and demanding procedure whereby the offers submitted were analysed, compared and evaluated, the Council agreed on the approach and methodology for ranking the offers and projects and classified them into several groups (classes) – 3 groups for television and 6 groups for radio, according to the following table:

RADIO		
Group I	broadcasters which have scored more than 75 points	HRK 253.870,00
Group II	broadcasters which have scored from 60 to 75 points	HRK 103.870,00
Group III	broadcasters which have scored from 40 to 60 points	HRK 53.870,00
Group IV	broadcasters which have scored from 25 to 40 points	HRK 33.870,00
Group V	broadcasters which have scored from 15 to 25 points	HRK 18.870,00
Group VI	broadcasters which have scored from 0 to 15 points	HRK 8.870,00
TELEVISION		
Group I	broadcasters which have scored more than 75 points	HRK 897.058,00
Group II	broadcasters which have scored from 60 to 75 points	HRK 547.058,00
Group III	broadcasters which have scored from 40 to 60 points	HRK 247.058,00

According to the official information received from the Ministry of Culture, the Council established that on 25 August 2005 there were HRK 17,876,941.12 in the Fund, resulting for the most part from 8 payments received from the Croatian Radio Television in the period from December 2004 to July 2005. In addition to this, in the end of the preceding fiscal year the Council itself paid HRK 1,939,053.99 to the Fund on the basis of the legal provisions governing transfer of its unspent funds.

On 5 October 2005 the Council signed contracts on the use of the Fund's funds, and these contracts identified the programme material for which money had been allocated. When allocating the Fund's funds, the Council took special account of the programme material intended for national minorities, and the broadcasters which received funding for the production of this program material include:

- Radio Mrežnica – for the broadcast "Minority Journal" and "Open for Minorities" (= HRK 253,870.00)
- Radio Banovina – for the broadcast to be produced, entitled "Here is My Home" (= HRK 253,870.00)
- Croatian Radio Karlovac – for the broadcasts "Etnos" and "Minority Forum" (= HRK 253,870.00)
- Radio Istra – for the broadcast *Microfono aperto*, ("Open Microphone") (= HRK 253,870.00)
- Radio Stella Maris – for the broadcast "News in Italian" (= HRK 103,870.00)
- Radio Daruvar – for the entire programme intended for national minorities, which was applied in response to the tender (= HRK 103,870.00)
- Radio Đakovo – for programmes for national minorities in the area of special state concern (= HRK 103,870.00)
- Radio Brod – for the broadcast "Etnoss" (= HRK 103,870.00)
- Radio Borovo – for the broadcasts "Conversation with a Cause", "Daily News" and "ARS Scale" (= HRK 103,870.00)
- BBR radio – for the broadcast "County Chronicle" (= HRK 103,870.00)
- Slavonski Radio – for the broadcast "D-funk" (= HRK 103,870.00)
- Radio Našice – for the programme for national minorities in the area of special state concern (= HRK 53,870.00)
- Radio Nova Gradiška – for the programme material intended for national minorities (= HRK 53,870.00)
- Radio Ogulin – for programmes for national minorities (= HRK 53,870.00)

- Radio Sisak – for programmes on national minorities from the area of special state concern through the broadcasts "Etnos" and "Focus" (= HRK 53,870.00)
- Slavonija radio – for the broadcast "My Home" (=HRK 53,870.00)
- Media-Mix-Radio 105 – for the broadcast "How do Croats in Slovene Prekmurje Region Live" (= HRK 33,870.00)
- Radio Grubišno Polje – for broadcasts on national minorities (= HRK 18,870.00)
- Radio Dunav – for a broadcast on national minorities (= HRK 8,870.00)
- TV Nova – for the broadcasts "Non-Mandatory Direction" and "Comunita" (= HRK 897,058.00)
- RI Kanal – for the broadcasts "News", "Forums", "Magnifying Glass", "RI Planet" and "Mosaic" (= HRK 897,058.00)
- Vinkovačka televizija – for the broadcasts "Dialogue", "Press Conference", "Living Together" (= HRK 547,058.00)
- TV Moslavina – for the broadcast "Minorities in the Media" (= HRK 547,058.00)
- KA Vision – for the broadcast "The Chip" (= HRK 247,058.00).

The Council allocated the Fund's funds earmarked for the advancement of public interest to many broadcasters, and it is through these shows that the broadcasters are also expected to respect the rights of national minorities.

The Council will systematically monitor whether the broadcasters have used the Fund's funds to produce programme material for which these funds were allocated, and if the contrary is proven, the Council will seek refund from the broadcaster concerned.

Year 2006

Pursuant to Article 5 of the Ordinance on the manner and procedure for implementing public tenders for the allocation of funds kept by the Fund for the Promotion of Pluralism and Diversity of the Electronic Media (*Official Gazette*, no. 170/04), the Council for Electronic Media, at its 74th session held on 1 February 2006, called a Public Tender No. 01/06 for the allocation of the Fund's funds.

The Council established that all television broadcasters, 19 of them, and 129 radio broadcasters submitted bids in response to the tender, which means that as many as 10 radio broadcasters failed to exercise their right to do this for unknown reasons. Nevertheless, consideration of 129 bids was a very comprehensive and demanding work and Council members did their best to complete it to be able to enforce the first Decision on Allocation within the time limits prescribed by the law and subordinate regulations.

The Council concluded that the majority of radio and television broadcasters applied to the Fund's tender with the material from their current programme schemes, and that there were few new projects.

In accordance with the Electronic Media Act, the Ordinance on the manner and procedure for implementing public tenders for the allocation of the Fund's funds and the Decision on the manner of evaluation of bids submitted in response to public tenders for the allocation of the Fund's funds, each Council member thoroughly examined all the bids and then, within working groups and at a series of working meetings, they conducted the analysis and evaluation procedure according to the criteria provided for by the Act, attentively assigning points in 6 very heterogeneous categories.

A total of HRK 9,441,632.00 was allocated to radio broadcasters, HRK 9,137,140.00 to television broadcasters, and HURIN received HRK 383,488,00 for two projects. The total amount allocated was HRK 18,962,260.00.

Points for the programme material intended for national minorities were assigned to 66 radio broadcasters and 14 television broadcasters.

On 5 June 2006 the Council signed contracts on the use of the Fund's funds, and these contracts identified the programme material for which money had been allocated. When allocating the Fund's funds, the Council took special account of the programme material intended for national minorities, and the broadcasters which received funding for the production of this programme material include:

- Krugoval Garešnica – for the broadcast "The Thread" (HRK 25,000.00)
- Radio Bljesak – for the broadcast "Here We are As Well" (HRK 50,000.00)
- Radio Brod – for the broadcast "Ej Romale" (HRK 93,520.00)
- Radio Daruvar – for broadcasts for the Czech national minority (HRK 93,250.00)
- Radio Dunav – for the broadcast "Origin" (HRK 25,000.00)
- Radio Labin – for the broadcast "Setimanale alboneze" (HRK 50,000.00)
- Radio Mrežnica – for the broadcast "Minority Journal" (HRK 191,744.00)
- Radio Našice – for the broadcast in the Slovak language (HRK 50,000.00)
- Radio Pitomača – for the broadcast "Ethnic Groups and Us" (HRK 93,520.00)
- Radio postaja Drniš – for the broadcast "At Home" (HRK 50,000.00)
- Radio postaja Nova Gradiška – for the broadcast "The Bridges of Trust" (HRK 25,000.00)
- Radio Rovinj – for the broadcast *Rovigno Canta* ("Rovinj Sings") (HRK 93,520.00)
- Radio Eurostar – for the broadcast *Senza Confini* ("Without Frontiers") (HRK 93,520.00)
- Radio Stella Maris – for the broadcast "News in Italian" (HRK 50,000.00)
- Radio Zona Buzet – for the broadcast "Homemade at 3" (HRK 25,000.00)
- TV Nova – for the broadcasts "Non-Mandatory Direction" and "Comunita" (HRK 452,700.00).

Television broadcasters received a total of HRK 452,700.00 for the programme material intended for national minorities, whereas radio broadcasters received HRK 1,009,344.00.

The Council allocated the Fund's funds earmarked for the advancement of public interest to many broadcasters, and it is through these shows that the broadcasters are also expected to respect the rights of national minorities.

The Council will systematically monitor whether the broadcasters have used the Fund's funds to produce the programme material for which these funds were allocated, and if the contrary is proven, the Council will seek refund from the broadcaster concerned.

At its 115th session held on 30 November 2006, the Council passed the Decision amending the Decision on the manner of evaluation of bids submitted in response to public tenders for the allocation of funds kept by the Fund for the Promotion of Pluralism and Diversity of the Electronic Media (*Official Gazette*, no. 03/07).

This Decision amended Article 5, paragraph 1, subparagraph 2 in that the programme material intended for national minorities in the Republic of Croatia may now be assigned from 5 to 20 points. The production and/or broadcasting of programmes under Article 5 of the HRT Act has nothing to do with the funds kept by the Fund for the Promotion of Pluralism and Diversity of the Electronic Media, but it is the HRT which is obliged to produce and broadcast the programmes referred to in Article 5 of the Act from its own budget.

Questions 57 and 58

Article 5 of the Media Act provides for the obligation of the State to promote pluralism and diversity of the media. Within the meaning of Article 2 of this Act, the media include: newspapers and other print media, radio and television programmes, programmes of newspaper agencies, electronic publications, teletext and other forms of daily or periodical publishing of editorial programme contents through the transmission of recording, voice, tone or picture. The Government of the Republic of Croatia promotes diversity and pluralism of the media, but also the principle of the freedom of the media. In this sense, the Ministry of Culture supports, through its activities, the publication of books, magazines and other programmes of national minorities. Furthermore, the provision of funding for speakers of regional or minority languages is ensured through the Fund for the Promotion of Pluralism and Diversity of the Electronic Media, if they apply for such funding, of course.

Question 59

In view of the principle of the freedom of the media and the fact that there exist publications specialised for members of national minorities, as well as programmes within the electronic media, there was no need for any additional encouragement on the part of the Government of the Republic of Croatia.

Article 12

Question 61

Every year the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia announces a public invitation for proposing programmes of public needs in culture. Requests for co-financing programmes may be filed in response to this public invitation pursuant to the Act on Financing Public Needs in Culture (OG 47/90 – amended text, OG 27/93) and the Ordinance on the selection and identification of programmes involving public needs in culture (OG 7/01, OG 60/01, 135/06). Requests for co-financing may also be filed with the Office for Minorities of the Government of the Republic of Croatia.

Question 62

Yes, in 2005 funds have been allocated to both the Italian and the Roma minority. Below you can find a new overview of the funds allocated to particular national minorities for the year 2005, because the table given in the Third Periodical Report evidently lacks the data relating to the Roma and the Italian minority, which were, unfortunately, probably omitted by mistake. The total amount of the funds allocated for 2005 is, thus, HRK 5,403,463.39 (as indicated in the Report) and the table below shows the funds allocated by particular minorities.

**TOTAL FUNDS SPENT FOR THE NEEDS OF
PARTICULAR NATIONAL MINORITIES**

Minority	Amount transferred
1	2
Jewish	705,000.00
Serbian	3,503,247.09
Bosniak	10,000.00
Montenegrin	27,900.00
Austrian	121,913.38
Roma	22,000.00
Czech	233,676.04
Italian	140,972.24
Hungarian	129,253.48
Slovene	119,051.18
Slovak	127,645.90
Albanian	135,223.99
Ruthenian and Ukrainian	127,580.09
TOTAL	5,403,463.39

Question 63

In March 2007 the Government of the Republic of Croatia submitted a new proposal of the Audiovisual Activities Act to the parliamentary procedure. On the model of the national legislations of European Union member states, and with a view to systematically encourage audiovisual creativity in the Republic of Croatia, this proposal provides for the establishment of the public institution called the Croatian Audiovisual Centre. The ownership rights over the Centre are exercised by the Ministry of Culture. The Centre performs the following activities:

- prepares and implements the National Programme for the Promotion of Audiovisual Creativity (hereinafter: "the National Programme") by encouraging the performance, organisation and financing of the preparation, development, production, distribution and broadcasting of Croatian, European and world audiovisual works,
- collects funds for the promotion of audiovisual activities in accordance with this Act and allocates them by means of public tenders,
- supports and promotes the production of films by young authors and *debutants*,

- promotes, directs and organises foreign investments in the Croatian audiovisual industry,
- represents the Croatian audiovisual industry at international festivals and events,
- promotes the participation of Croatian producers in European and international co-productions,
- promotes and organises domestic and international audiovisual festivals and events,
- promotes and organises publishing activities within the Centre's scope of work,
- develops and fosters audiovisual culture,
- performs the tasks involving production and cost control and analysis,
- performs referral and documentation work for the audiovisual industry in the Republic of Croatia,
- promotes the activities involving the protection of audiovisual heritage,
- supports and organises expert and professional training in the area of audiovisual activities,
- in co-operation with other bodies, develops measures for the suppression of illegal use of audiovisual works,
- fosters values and promotes measures relevant for the protection of children and youth, equality of genders, races and national minorities,
- co-operates with professional organisations, legal and physical persons with a view to improving audiovisual activities,
- keeps registers in accordance with this Act.

The Centre performs the tasks and activities in the implementation of European Union and Council of Europe programmes.

The activities of the Centre are specified by its Statute, in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

Article 14

Question 65

The laws governing minority rights:

- Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities, *Official Gazette*, no. 155/02
- Act on the Ratification of the Agreement Between the Republic of Croatia and Serbia and Montenegro on the Protection of the Croatian Minority in Serbia and Montenegro and the Serbian and Montenegrin Minority in the Republic of Croatia, *Official Gazette, International Agreements*, no. 3/05
- Act on the Ratification of the Agreement Between the Republic of Croatia and the Italian Republic on Minority Rights, *Official Gazette, International Agreements*, no. 15/97
- Act on the Ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, *Official Gazette, International Agreements*, no. 18/97
- Act on the Ratification of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, *Official Gazette, International Agreements*, no. 14/97
- Decision to Promulgate the Act on the Ratification of the Agreement between the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Hungary on the Protection of the Hungarian Minority in the Republic of Croatia and the Croatian Minority in the Republic of Hungary, *Official Gazette, International Agreements*, no. 8/95

Cultural activities of the minorities receiving support from the Government Office for Minorities are mostly traditional in nature, such as those involving the protection of language, the preservation of folk customs, music and arts, the organisation of exhibitions, theatrical and recitation groups.

The Ministry of Culture, on the other hand, supports various programmes through regular support programmes in all areas of its scope of work.

We are giving below bilateral and multilateral agreements on co-operation in the fields of culture and education, whose provisions call for the support of co-operation for the promotion of cultural needs of national minorities and the activities of ethnic associations and institutions in the territories of the contractual parties:

- Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Government of the Republic of Austria on Co-operation in the Field of Culture and Education, signed in Vienna on 5 October 2004 (Publication Decree of 5 May 2005, OG – IA, no. 5/05), entered into force on 1 October 2005 (published on 19 August 2005, OG – IA, no. 8/05)
- Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Government of the Czech Republic on Co-operation in the Field of Culture, Education and Science, signed in Zagreb on 6 June 2001 (Publication Decree of 30 August 2001, OG – IA, no. 10/01), entered into force on 18 October 2001 (OG – IA, no. 6/02)
- Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Government of the FR Yugoslavia on Co-operation in the Field of Culture and Education, signed in Belgrade on 23 April 2002, published in OG – IA, no. 15/02, entered into force on 25 February 2003 (OG – IA, no. 8/03)
- Agreement on Cultural, Education and Scientific Co-operation between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Government of the Republic of Hungary, signed in Zagreb on 16 March 1994 (Decree on the ratification of the Agreement, OG – IA, no. 2/99 of 4 February 1999), entered into force on 5 March 1999 (OG – IA, no. 3/01)
- Agreement on Education, Cultural and Scientific Co-operation between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Government of Romania, signed in Zagreb on 19 May 1993 (Ratification Decree of 2 December 1993, OG – IA, no. 17/93)
- Agreement on Cultural, Education, Scientific and Sports Co-operation between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Government of the Slovak Republic, signed in Bratislava on 5 May 1995 (Ratification Decree of 22 May 1997, OG – IA, no. 8/97), entered into force on 25 August 1997 (OG – IA, no. 17/97)
- Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Government of Ukraine on Co-operation in the Field of Culture, Education, Science and Technology, signed in Zagreb on 5 June 1997 (Decree on the Ratification of the Agreement of 28 May 1998, OG – IA, no. 8/98), entered into force on 1 June 1999 (OG IA, no. 9/99)
- 1st Protocol on Co-operation in the Field of Culture and Education between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Government of the Italian Republic for the Years 2003-2007, signed in Zagreb on 26 February 2003