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**EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES**

**Fourth 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**

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

ZAGREB, December 2009

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- (1) Pursuant to Article 15 of the *European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages* (hereinafter: the Charter), the Republic of Croatia hereby submits the Fourth Periodical Report for the period 2006-2008, developed in accordance with the revised Outline for three-yearly Periodical Reports (CM(2009)42), adopted at the 1054th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies of the Council of Europe on 15 April 2009.
- (2) The following state administration bodies cooperated in developing the Fourth Report:
  - Ministry of Justice ([www.pravosudje.hr](http://www.pravosudje.hr)), the authority responsible for the collection of data relating to minority language use before judicial authorities;
  - Ministry of Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship ([www.mingorp.hr](http://www.mingorp.hr)), relating to economic and social issues;
  - Ministry of Culture ([www.min-kulture.hr](http://www.min-kulture.hr)), relating to cultural activities;
  - Ministry of the Interior ([www.mup.hr](http://www.mup.hr)), relating to the issue of documents in minority languages;
  - Ministry of Public Administration ([www.uprava.hr](http://www.uprava.hr)), relating to minority language use in state administration bodies, bodies of local and regional self-government units and legal persons vested with public powers;
  - Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration ([www.mvpei.hr](http://www.mvpei.hr)), relating to international cooperation and political issues;
  - Ministry of Science, Education and Sport ([www.mzos.hr](http://www.mzos.hr)), relating to educational issues;
  - Office for National Minorities of the Government of the Republic of Croatia ([www.vlada.hr](http://www.vlada.hr)),
  - Agency for Supervision of Electronic Media ([www.e-mediji.hr](http://www.e-mediji.hr)), relating to public and private media;
  - Central Bureau of Statistics ([www.dzs.hr](http://www.dzs.hr));
  - Croatian Radio and Television ([www.hrt.hr](http://www.hrt.hr)), relating to public media;
- (3) The final draft report was delivered to all the bodies participating in its development, for them to respond. The report was delivered to the *Council for National Minorities of the Republic of Croatia*, the umbrella body of national minorities at the central level, connecting institutions and interests of national minorities at the state level. It is an autonomous body with the aim to promote efficient participation of national minorities in the public life of the Republic of Croatia, in particular in the field of consideration of and suggestions for regulation and resolution of issues regarding the exercise and protection of rights and freedoms of national minorities.
- (4) The invitation to cooperate in preparing the Fourth Report was also extended to all umbrella associations of all the national minorities to which the provisions of the Charter apply, pursuant to the Declaration contained in the instrument of ratification of the Republic of Croatia, as follows:
  - Italian Union,
  - Serbian Cultural Society “Prosvjeta”,
  - Union of Czechs in the Republic of Croatia,

- Democratic Community of Hungarians,
  - Union of Slovaks, and
  - Union of Ruthenians and Ukrainians of the Republic of Croatia.
- (5) The invitation to participate in the development of the report was also extended to the Union of Slovene Societies in the Republic of Croatia, the umbrella association of the Slovene national minority in the Republic of Croatia.
- (6) Out of the above stated associations of national minorities, responses were delivered by the Serbian Cultural Society “Prosvjeta” and the Union of Slovenian Societies, and the full texts can be found in Annexes 1 and 2 to this report.

## **2. PART I.**

### **2.1 Legislative amendments**

- (7) In the period since the Third Report by the Republic of Croatia on the Application of the Charter, the following regulations have been adopted: *The Primary and Secondary Education Act* (Official Gazette no. 87/08, 86/09), *State Pedagogical Standard of Preschool Education*, *State Pedagogical Standard of Primary Education System*, *State Pedagogical Standard of Secondary Education System* (OG 63/08). Furthermore, the *Act on Primary and Secondary School Textbooks* (OG 36/06, 141/06, 152/08, 86/09) and the *Ordinance on State Matura Exam* (OG 97/08) have been passed.
- (8) The above legislation is aligned with the *Act on Education in the Languages and Scripts of National Minorities* (OG 51/00) and the *Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities* (OG 155/02), that is, it adequately deals with specific segments of education, taking into consideration education in national minority languages and scripts.

### **2.2 Action Plan for the Implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities**

- (9) In June 2008, the Government of the Republic of Croatia adopted the *Action Plan for the Implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities* with a view to continuing the promotion and exercise of national minority rights guaranteed by the *Constitutional Act*. The Action Plan encompasses national minorities in the Republic of Croatia and consists of the following 11 sections:
1. Official and public use of national minority languages and scripts;
  2. Education in national minority languages and scripts,
  3. Use of national minority insignia and symbols,
  4. Cultural autonomy,
  5. Right to practise one’s own religion and to establish religious communities with other members of the religion,
  6. Access to mass media,
  7. Self-organisation and grouping in an effort to promote common interests,
  8. Representation of national minority members in state administration bodies, judicial authorities and the bodies of local and regional self-government units;

9. Participation of national minority members in public life through national minority councils and representatives;
10. Protection from any activity undermining the exercise of rights and freedoms of national minority members - Developing tolerance towards diversity and anti-discrimination;
11. National Programme for the Roma and Action Plan for the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005–2015.

(10) With a view to promoting the national minority right to official and public use of one's native language and script, the following measures have been envisaged:

- Measure 1.1 – implementation of the supervision over the legality of the work and legal acts of local and regional bodies in the self-government units which are obliged, under the Constitutional Act, to ensure the right for national minorities to use a minority language and script.
  - Measure 1.1.1 – implementation of the supervision over the statutes of local and regional self-government units which are obliged, under the Constitutional Act, to ensure the right for national minorities to use a minority language and script.
    - The measure was not implemented during 2008 and 2009, but is planned for 2010.
  - Measure 1.1.2 – improvement of the system of monitoring and analysis of the status concerning official and public use of national minority languages and scripts in representative and executive bodies of local self-government, in the proceedings before state administration bodies of the first instance and legal persons vested with public powers.
    - The measure was not implemented during 2008 and 2009, but is planned for 2010.
  - Measure 1.1.3 – training of local and regional government members, and local civil servants on the official and public use of languages and scripts of national minorities at the level of local self-government units.
 

*After the local elections in May 2009, municipal/city/county governments, as the executive bodies of local and regional self-government, ceased to exist; municipal prefects became the holders of executive authority in municipalities, mayors in cities and county prefects in counties. With the abolishment of governments, national minority members exercise their right to representation in the executive bodies of self-government units through the right to a deputy municipal prefect, deputy mayor and deputy county prefect, pursuant to the Constitutional Act on National Minorities and the Local and Regional Self-Government Act.*

    - Revision of this measure is planned.
  - Measure 1.1.4 – organization of 4 regional seminars on the right of national minority members to equal official use of their language and script with a view to improving the exercise of rights, motivating and encouraging members of national minorities to exercise their rights.
    - The measure was not implemented during 2008 and 2009, but is planned to be implemented in 2010.
  - Measure 1.1.5 – development of instructions for ensuring an effective implementation of the Act on the Use of the Languages and Scripts of National Minorities in the Republic of Croatia in the work of legal persons vested with public powers, and implementation of administrative supervision.

- Implementation of the measure is underway.
  - Measure 1.2 – special information brochures and other promotion materials in the state administration bodies of the first instance and judicial bodies obliged to implement the Act on the Use of the Languages and Scripts of National Minorities in the Republic of Croatia, designed to inform the public how to exercise their right to use minority languages in the proceedings conducted before these bodies.
    - The stated measure has been implemented in the part relating to the judicial bodies, as promotional materials have been offered in some courts of the first instance. In the part relating to state administration bodies of the first instance, implementation of the measure is underway.
  - Measure 1.3 – implementation of 4 inspectional supervisions in the county courts in Osijek, Bjelovar, Šibenik and Pula concerning the application of the Act on the Use of the Languages and Scripts of National Minorities in the Republic of Croatia before judicial bodies.
    - the stated measure has been implemented, and the results of inspectional supervision showed that the provisions of the *Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities* and the *Act on the Use of the Languages and Scripts of National Minorities* are properly implemented.
  - Measure 1.4 – establishment of a register of cases which were or could have been conducted in a minority language, but the party waived that right, in all first-instance judicial bodies obliged to act in a minority language.
    - The measure has been implemented and the above register established.
  - Measure 1.5 – Statistical monitoring of the number and type of judicial proceedings conducted in a particular minority language and script.
    - The measure has been implemented, and annual records are kept, containing statistical data on court proceedings conducted in the languages of national minorities.
  - Measure 1.6 – organization of consultations with presidents of courts on the implementation of the Act on the Use of the Languages and Scripts of National Minorities in the Republic of Croatia.
    - Implementation of the measure is underway.
- (11) With the aim of promoting training in the languages and scripts of national minorities, the envisaged measures are as follows:
- Measure 2.1 To organize, develop and implement a model of training teachers who teach in the languages and scripts of national minorities.
    - The measure has been implemented, as explained in more detail in paragraphs (112) and (113) of the report.
  - Measure 2.2 To organize round tables on the topic of education in the languages and scripts of national minorities.
    - The measure has not been implemented due to a lack of funds, which refers to the period since the adoption of the document in June 2008, when the budget for 2008 had already been set, while in 2009, resources have been limited due to recession measures.
  - Measure 2.3 To implement primary and secondary school education programmes on human rights and the rights of national minorities.
    - The measure is implemented in primary and secondary schools continuously since 1999, when the Croatian Government adopted the National Curriculum for Human Rights and Democratic Citizenship.

- Measure 2.4 To organize an expert discussion on the inclusion of contents related to the identity and culture of national minorities in the curricula.
  - Development of the National Framework Curriculum for Preschool Education and General Obligatory Education in Primary and Secondary School is in progress, and for a more detailed explanation see paragraph (41) of the report.
- Measure 2.5 To inform children and parents about the possibilities of attending classes in the languages and scripts of national minorities (under all the models - A, B, C, and correspondence classes).
  - Implementation of the measure is underway, as explained in paragraph (117) of the report.
- Measure 2.6 To increase the number of Roma children in preschool education and regular education system in accordance with the Action Plan for the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005 - 2015.
  - The measure is implemented continuously.
 

In preschool education, in the academic year 2006/2007, there were 518 children of the Roma minority, in 2007/2008 there were 810, and at the beginning of 2008/2009 there were 661 Roma children. In the year 2008, 448,612.82 HRK from the State budget was spent on preschool education. In the 2009 State Budget of the Republic of Croatia, 700,000.00 HRK was secured for activities encouraging preschool education for Roma, whereby the resources were allocated for the co-financing of the parental share in the cost of preschool education of Roma children (accommodation of children in a preschool institution, in an integrated group), which is a further step in promoting the inclusion of the children of the Roma minority in preschool education.

In primary education, in the academic year 2006/2007, there were 3,010 pupils who were Roma minority members, in 2007/2008 there were 3,786, and in the academic year 2008/2009. there were 3,940, which constitutes a continuous increase in the number of Roma minority members in compulsory primary education.

The number of pupils of the Roma minority in secondary school education has also been on the increase, so that there were 172 Roma pupils in 2006/2007, 186 of them in 2007/2008, and 244 in 2008/2009.

In higher education, in the academic year 2007/2008, there were 10 students who declared themselves as members of the Roma national minority, and in 2008/2009 there were 19 of them. All secondary school pupils and students in higher education who are members of the Roma minority, are entitled to a scholarship awarded by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sport.
- Measure 2.7 To provide textbooks for teaching in the languages and scripts of national minorities, within the implementation of the free textbooks programme on the entire territory of Croatia.
  - The measure is implemented in the manner explained in paragraphs (108), (109), (110), (111) of the report, and refers to the academic years 2007/2008 and 2008/2009. For the academic year 2009/2010, due to limited financial resources, free textbooks are provided only to specific groups of pupils in primary and secondary schools who are socially most vulnerable, pursuant to a Government Decision from July 2009.
- Measure 2.8 To adopt necessary regulations and to harmonise the existing ones with the *Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities* and the *Act on Education in the Languages and Scripts of National Minorities*.

- Implementation of the measure is underway.  
In the course of 2008, a new *Primary and Secondary Education Act* (OG 87/08) was passed, which is in conformity with the *Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities and the Act on Education in the Languages and Scripts of National Minorities*.  
Development of secondary legislation is underway, pursuant to the *Primary and Secondary Education Act*, which will take into account harmonisation with the *Constitutional Law on National Minorities and the Act on Education in the Languages and Scripts of National Minorities*.  
Furthermore, the year 2008 saw the adoption of the State Pedagogical Standard of Preschool Education, State Pedagogical Standard of Primary Education System, State Pedagogical Standard of Secondary Education System (OG 63/08), which enable pupils to choose from the available teaching models in the languages and scripts of national minorities.  
In addition to the above, in 2008, the Act on Amendments to the Act on Primary and Secondary School Textbooks was adopted, which provides detailed procedures for the procurement of textbooks for education in the languages and scripts of national minorities, and the standard for defining scientific, pedagogical, psychological, didactic-methodological, ethical, linguistic, visual graphic, and technical requirements for the production of textbooks for education in the languages and scripts of national minorities. The Committee for the selection of textbooks in the languages and scripts of national minorities must include a practitioner teacher, a methodologist and a scientist who is a member of a national minority for textbooks concerning that minority.
- Measure 2.9 Adoption of appropriate curricula for all the teaching models in the languages and scripts of national minorities (Models A, B, C).
  - Implementation of the measure is underway. In the development of curricula in the languages and scripts of national minorities for the model A, 137 teachers belonging to national minorities were included. Before the adoption, under the *Act on Education in the Languages and Scripts of National Minorities*, the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports will seek the opinion of the programmes from the umbrella minority associations.
- Measure 2.10 To provide consultants for the monitoring of education in the languages and scripts of national minorities (Ruthenian, Ukrainian, and Serbian for Model C).
  - Implementation of measures is underway, as explained in detail in paragraphs (112) and (113) of the report.
- Measure 2.11 To encourage and enable secondary school pupils to educate themselves under Model C (acquisition of language and culture), especially the Serbian, Slovak, Ruthenian and Ukrainian national minorities.
  - Implementation of the measure is in progress, and for more information on the Model C, see paragraphs (97), (104), (106), (107), (118)-(129) of the report.
- Measure 2.12 To ensure co-financing for the work of the Distance Learning Centre and provide computer equipment for 3 branches (Serbian, Macedonian and other interested minorities).
  - The measure has been implemented. The Ministry of Science, Education and Sport co-finances the organization and implementation of special forms of teaching, one of them being distance learning (e-learning, and correspondence and consultation classes). This form of teaching is organized for members of the Serbian national minority whose parents want their children to learn their

native language and culture, but for which there is no possibility of organizing regular classes under Models A, B or C due to the travel distance or a small number of pupils, i.e. due to the dispersion of population. In the second half of 2008, the sum of 225,000.00 HRK was allocated to the Serbian Cultural Society “Prosvjeta” from Zagreb, for the purposes of distance learning (e-learning) of the Serbian language for over 200 pupils who are members of the Serbian minority and live in areas where the requirements for learning the Serbian language in primary schools have not been met.

- Measure 2.13 To harmonize the statutes of primary schools with the Act on Education in the Languages and Scripts of National Minorities.
  - The measure has been implemented.
- Measure 2.14 To register primary school facilities of the minorities in accordance with legal regulations (for the Serbian minority in the Counties of Osijek-Baranja and Vukovar-Syrmia).
  - Implementation of the measure is underway. According to the data of the Administrative Department of Education, Culture and Sport of the County of Vukovar-Syrmia (as of 23 April 2009), Serbian minority pupils have the possibility of education in the language and script of the national minority under Models A, B or C, subject to the decision of the parents during enrolment of their children in school. For Serbian minority pupils, classes under Model A in the Serbian language and Cyrillic script take place in special class sections. All the schools have been entered into the court register. Although the principals of 5 primary schools (OŠ Trpinja, OŠ Borovo, OŠ Markušica, OŠ Negoslavci, OŠ Bobota) delivered the amendment of the statute (in the process of alignment of the statute with the new *Primary and Secondary Education Act*) changing their status from schools established to provide classes in the Croatian language to schools established to provide classes in the Serbian language, by 23 April 2009 not one motion was submitted to the official procedure, for the existing schools established to provide classes in the Croatian language, and containing sections with classes in the Serbian language, to be established as schools providing classes in the Serbian language. According to the letter of the County of Osijek-Baranja, there is a Centre for Education and Culture of the Hungarians in the Republic of Croatia operating in the County of Osijek-Baranja, which was established for the sole purpose of providing education in the Hungarian language. Classes for Serbian minority pupils in the above county are conducted in the Serbian language and Cyrillic script in 5 primary schools, and Serbian language and script are cultivated in 2 primary schools.

### **2.3 Implementation of the Recommendations of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (RecChL (2008)1)**

- (12) On the occasion of the second evaluation report of the Council of Europe [ECRML (2005)3], the Committee of Ministers stated eight recommendations, and in respect of the first recommendation to, “*in light of the situation in the field and 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 undertook to deliver its response in the Fourth Periodical Report, in respect of which see section 4.1 *infra*.

- (13) On the occasion of the third evaluation report of the Council of Europe, the Committee of Ministers recommended to the Republic of Croatia to take account of the observations of the Committee of Experts, and highlighted the following recommendations as a matter of priority:

***Recommendation 1:** provide information on the application of Part III. of the Charter in those areas where regional or minority language is not in equal and official use, but there is nevertheless a traditional presence and a sufficient number of speakers of that regional or minority language for the Charter to apply.*

- (14) Information about the areas where a particular regional or minority language does not account for one third of the population, but where the local self-government recognized the need for special regulation of the status of the regional or minority language is provided with detail in sections 4.1 and 4.4.2.2 of the report.

***Recommendation 2:** take practical steps to promote awareness and tolerance vis-à-vis regional or minority languages and the cultures they represent as an integral part of the cultural heritage of Croatia, both in general curriculum at all stages of education and in the media.*

- (15) The Republic of Croatia, within the scope of the Ministry of Science, Education and Sport, is investing extraordinary efforts, human and financial resources, in order that the *Charter*, domestic legislation and educational policies relating to the exercise of the right to education in the languages and scripts of national minorities are implemented on a high level, for which there is technical and political agreement with the unions, associations, institutions and parties who are legitimate representatives of national minorities. The promotion of awareness and tolerance in respect of regional or minority languages is an important integral part of Croatian cultural heritage, which is reflected in the general curriculum, as specified in paragraph (41) of the report.

- (16) Croatian Radio and Television promotes in all its programmes, both radio and television, the heritage – i.e. language and culture - of the national minorities, covering an even wider scope of languages than those protected by the *Charter*.

***Recommendation 3:** develop a planned and structured approach to the implementation of regional or minority language teaching (Model C) so that it meets the requirements of the Charter as outlined by the Committee of Experts.*

- (17) A detailed overview of the planned and systematic approach to the implementation of regional or minority language teaching is provided in paragraphs (97)-(107) and (116)-(129) of the report.

***Recommendation 4:** introduce the teaching of Slovak, Ruthenian and Ukrainian in secondary education.*

- (18) A detailed overview of the teaching of Slovak, Ruthenian and Ukrainian language in secondary education is provided in paragraphs (120)-(122) of the report.

**Recommendation 5:** *take measures to ensure that speakers can use their regional or minority languages in relations with the relevant branches of the State administration.*

(19) On 26 June 2008, the Croatian Government adopted the *Action Plan for the Implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities*, which, *inter alia*, includes an analysis of the situation concerning the use of the languages and scripts of national minorities, and measures are envisaged with a view to improving the exercise of the right of national minority members to use their language and script in the proceedings before the state administration bodies of the first instance and legal persons vested with public powers. Holders of the measures are central state administration bodies within their respective scope of competence.

(20) A detailed overview of the implementation of the above mentioned measures is provided *supra*, in section 2.2 of the report.

**Recommendation 6:** *introduce a language-specific and more significant presence for regional or minority languages on public television and develop a presence on the regional radio stations also for those languages that do not yet benefit from it.*

(21) In addition to existing programmes for and about national minority members, the HRT is planning to produce, and finance, additional programmes for the minorities, subject to its capacities, financial in particular.

#### **2.4 Forthcoming activities - census in the Republic of Croatia in 2011**

(22) The last census in Croatia was conducted in 2001, and a new census is envisaged for 2011. The new census will be an important document for the monitoring of possible changes in the number and geographical distribution of members of national minorities in Croatia, which will enable the continuation of adequate protection and promotion of the rights of national minorities to use their own minority languages.

### **3. PART II – Objectives and principles**

#### **3.1 Article 7 paragraph 1**

*In respect of regional or minority languages, within the territories in which such languages are used and according to the situation of each language, the Parties shall base their policies, legislation and practice on the following objectives and principles:*

*a) the recognition of the regional or minority languages as an expression of cultural wealth;*

(23) The *Constitution* of the Republic of Croatia (OG 41/01 - consolidated text) stipulates in Art. 15 that members of all national minorities are guaranteed freedom of expression of their nationality, free use of their language and script, and cultural autonomy. The recognition of minority languages as cultural wealth is thus guaranteed at the constitutional level.

(24) With regard to the recognition of minority languages as cultural wealth, Section 3.5 of this report contains information on the recognition of Istro-Romanian dialect variants, the variant of Hum na Sutli and the variant of Bednja as cultural goods of the Republic of Croatia.

*b) the respect of the geographical area of each regional or minority language in order to ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of the regional or minority language in question;*

(25) With regard to the conclusions of the Committee of Experts from paragraph 15 [ECRML (2008)1; MIN-LANG (2008)27], a detailed reply is provided in Section 4.1 of this report. With regard to the indications of the Committee of Experts about the problem of the protection of the Czech language in Daruvar, it needs to be emphasized that the town council of the Town of Daruvar adopted a new Statute of the Town of Daruvar on 1 September 2009, wherein Art. 127 regulates the official use of the Czech language and script in a part of the territory of the Town of Daruvar, including the settlements of Ljudevit Selo, Donji Daruvar, Gornji Daruvar, Doljani and Daruvar.

*c) the need for resolute action to promote regional or minority languages in order to safeguard them;*

(26) With regard to the question of the Committee of Experts from paragraph 16 [ECRML (2008)1; MIN-LANG (2008)27], the Republic of Croatia stresses that various programmes of 19 national minorities are receiving financial support from the State Budget through the Council for National Minorities, including the national minorities to whose minority languages Part III. of the *Charter* applies: Italians, Czechs, Slovaks, Hungarians, Ruthenians, Ukrainians, Serbs, Germans, Austrians, Jews, Slovenes, Albanians, Bosniaks, Roma, Montenegrins, Macedonians, Russians, Bulgarians and Poles. Pursuant to the Council Decision and the established criteria, the programmes financed are those of the associations and institutions of national minorities in the field of publicity, publishing, amateur culture, cultural events, programmes arising from bilateral contracts and agreements, as well as programmes securing preconditions for the exercise of cultural autonomy of national minorities. Programmes concerning publicity, publishing, amateur culture and cultural events were allocated the following amount of resources from the State Budget through the Council for National Minorities:

- In 2006, 29,700,000 HRK,
- In 2007, 35,000,000 HRK,
- In 2008, 41,511,500 HRK, and
- In 2009, 43,590,000 HRK.
- TOTAL = 149,801,500 HRK.

*d) the facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of regional or minority languages, in speech and writing, in public and private life;*

(27) The Republic of Croatia is aware of the significance of promoting the use of national minority languages in written and spoken form, both in public and private life, and has taken a more proactive approach by implementing measures aimed at the exercise of all the

national minority rights guaranteed by both international and domestic legislative framework regulating the rights of national minorities in the Republic of Croatia.

- (28) *Supra* under Section 2.2. contains detailed description of the measures from the *Action Plan for the Implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities*, which have the objective to promote the use of minority languages in public life, in both written and spoken form.

*e) the maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups using a regional or minority language and other groups in the State employing a language used in identical or similar form, as well as the establishment of cultural relations with other groups in the State using different languages;*

- (29) The question was dealt with *infra*, in Section 4.8 of this report.

*f) the provision of appropriate forms and means for the teaching and study of regional or minority languages at all appropriate stages;*

- (30) The question was dealt with in detail *infra*, in Section 4.2 of this report.

*g) the provision of facilities enabling non-speakers of a regional or minority language living in the area where it is used to learn it if they so desire;*

- (31) The Croatian educational policy has been investing significant human resources, which also implies financial resources, in education in the languages and scripts of national minorities, that is, in the implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. To implement some of the recommendations, significant efforts of minority communities are required, in order to promote the issue of learning some minority languages in real context, in particular in secondary or adult education, and in partnership with school authorities.

- (32) With regard to the question of the Committee of Experts from paragraphs 25 and 113 [ECRML (2008)1; MIN-LANG (2008)27] concerning the possibility for adult non-speakers of their mother tongue to learn it, that is, with regard to the estimate of the Committee of Experts that the number of speakers of regional or minority languages in Croatia is decreasing and the encouragement by the Committee to enable such learning, we emphasize that national minority associations, i.e. their unions, offer minority language courses for adults, including both mother tongue speakers and non-speakers. There is an interest in some languages, for instance Italian and Czech, since the participants see personal benefit in the language skills, be it for employment or other personal reasons. On the other hand, there is no such motivation for learning Ruthenian or Ukrainian. One can assume that there is no interest in Serbian due to the simple fact that speakers of Croatian and Serbian understand each other's language, i.e. the linguistic differences are such that they do not require learning the other language.

- (33) On the whole, foreign language learning has been commercialised, and both adult speakers and pupils choose to learn those languages which seem to open up better perspectives for them in the future. Popularisation, motivation and facilitation of minority language learning

for non-speakers are provided, subject to their resources, by national minority associations, or national minority unions through their branches or directly, depending on the language and area.

- (34) The Italian national minority in Zadar, for instance, provides Italian language courses for adults for a symbolic fee. In Istria, in the bilingual towns and municipalities of Rovinj, Buje, Umag, Novigrad and Poreč, there are possibilities for learning Italian in schools with regular classes in Croatian. The same is offered in Pula and Rijeka, although these are not bilingual towns. For adult non-speakers, Italian courses are mostly offered on a commercial basis, in foreign language schools.
- (35) The Czech national minority organises free-of-charge Czech courses, with the assistance of teachers from the Czech Republic, through their branches in towns Virovitica, Bjelovar, Rijeka, Slavonski Brod, Nova Gradiška and Zagreb.
- (36) The Hungarian national minority offers a Hungarian course in the Centre for Education and Culture (*Prosvjetno-kulturni centar*) in Osijek, but on a commercial basis.
- (37) According to the information from the Ministry of Science, Education and Sport, nobody responded to the initiative of the Slovak national minority, nor to the initiatives of the Ukrainian and Ruthenian national minority.
- (38) Schools are willing to engage in partnership with national minority associations or their unions, in order to successfully provide minority language learning opportunities for adults, i.e. opportunities for learning a minority language within schools as a local area language. It is hence important that national minority associations engage in partnership with schools, in order to promote cultural diversity in a certain area, and minority languages constitute one of the key factors for preserving the national and cultural identity of minorities.

*h) the promotion of study and research on regional or minority languages at universities or equivalent institutions;*

- (39) The question was dealt with in detail *infra*, in Section 4.2 of this report.

*i) the promotion of appropriate types of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for regional or minority languages used in identical or similar form in two or more States.*

- (40) The question was dealt with *infra* in Section 4.8 of this report.

### **3.2 Article 7 paragraph 3**

*The Parties undertake to promote, by appropriate measures, mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country and in particular the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to regional or minority languages among the objectives of education and training provided within their countries and encouragement of the mass media to pursue the same objective.*

(41) With regard to the question of the Committee of Experts from paragraph 34 [ECRML (2008)1; MIN-LANG (2008)27], in the part of the evaluation concerning the promotion of awareness and tolerance towards regional or minority languages in the curriculum, we state that a public debate was held until 31 March 2009 on the National Framework Curriculum for Preschool Education and General Obligatory Education in Primary and Secondary School, a core document serving as the basis for drafting any other curricular documents and for drafting school curricula. The basic principles underlying the National Curriculum are multiculturalism, tolerance and respect for diversity. The Strategy for the Construction and Development of the National Curriculum includes *inter alia* the acquisition of basic knowledge about and a positive attitude towards one's own culture and other peoples' cultures, social integration and life in a heterogeneous society, understanding of human rights and children's rights, as well as training in compliance with the law and implementation of the law, active and responsible participation in social life, assuming responsibility for a democratic development of pupils, and ensuring quality education for everyone.

### **3.3 Article 7 paragraph 4**

*In determining their policy with regard to regional or minority languages, the Parties shall take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the groups which use such languages. They are encouraged to establish bodies, if necessary, for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to regional or minority languages.*

(42) With regard to the question of the Committee of Experts from paragraph 42 [ECRML (2008)1; MIN-LANG (2008)27] concerning the functioning of local minority councils, we emphasize that Chapter III of the *Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities* stipulates that, with a view to improving, preserving and protecting the status of national minorities in the society, national minority members elect their representatives to participate in public life and management of local affairs through national minority councils and representatives in local and regional self-government units.

(43) Members of a national minority are entitled to elect their council in those local and regional self-government units where they account for a minimum of 1.5 % of the total population on the territory of the unit, as well as in local self-government units with over 200 members of the particular national minority living on their territory, and in regional self-government units with over 500 members of the national minority living on their territory. A national minority council of a municipality comprises 10 members, a national minority council of a town comprises 15 members, and a national minority council of a county comprises 25 members.

(44) In those units which do not meet the requirements for the election of a council, but a minimum of 100 members of a national minority members live on their territory, a national minority representative is elected. National minority council members and representatives are elected in direct elections by secret ballot for a period of four years, and the election procedure is regulated accordingly by the provisions regulating the election of members of representative bodies in local and regional self-government units.

(45) At the session held on 9 May 2007, the Croatian Government adopted a Decision on calling the elections for members of national minority councils in local and regional self-government units, and the elections subsequently took place on 17 June 2007. The elections were called for 308 national minority councils and 228 national minority representatives. With a view to

improving, preserving and protecting the status of national minorities in the society, national minority members elected 254 national minority councils and 105 representatives to participate in public life and management of local affairs in self-government units.

- (46) Since the previous term of office of the members of the Council for National Minorities expired, the Croatian Government, at the session of 22 March 2007, adopted a Decision on appointing a part of the members of the Council for National Minorities from the ranks of Serbian, Jewish, Albanian, Austrian and Macedonian national minorities. A Jewish national minority representative was appointed Chairman of the Council, and a Serbian national minority representative was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council.
- (47) With a view to optimising the efficiency of the participation of national minority councils and representatives in decision-making processes, the Government Office for National Minorities, in cooperation with the Council for National Minorities, organised trainings in the form of 23 seminars aimed at national minority councils and representatives of local and regional self-government. All the seminars were also attended by the national minority representatives from the Croatian Parliament. A total of 1200 participants attended the seminars and workshops.
- (48) The final seminar, held in Zagreb from 17-18 March 2006, was attended by council members from the entire territory of the Republic of Croatia. As a part of the seminars, there were three workshops, with discussion topics including the role of national minority councils and representatives in decision-making processes at the local and regional level, the creation of material preconditions for the functioning of national minority councils and representatives, financial plans and work programmes, as well as the elections of national minority councils and representatives. The participants at the seminars concluded, based on a comprehensive analysis and discussions from all the seminars, that the system of national minority councils as a whole has begun to function, and a series of examples of good practice were presented, where the requirements for the functioning of national minority councils have been secured and they function in an efficient manner.
- (49) From 5-7 July 2006, the Office for National Minorities organised the third seminar on educating young national minority members about the process of accession of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union, which included the discussion of international ratification documents of the Republic of Croatia, such as the *Act Ratifying the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities* and the *Act Ratifying the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages*.
- (50) From 7-10 July 2006, the Office for National Minorities, in cooperation with the Council for National Minorities, organised a seminar in Zadar for the young Croatian national minority members from the Czech Republic and Slovakia, introducing them to the system of national minority rights in the Republic of Croatia and to the representation of minorities in representative bodies at the local and regional level, and in the Croatian Parliament, at the state level.
- (51) The Office continued organising seminars on the implementation of the *Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities*, in order to enable members of all national minorities to participate in the discussion on the implementation of the said international document for the promotion of national minority rights. The third seminar on the implementation of the *Framework Convention* was held in Peroj, in the County of Istria,

in 2006, the fourth took place in Vukovar, in the County of Vukovar-Syrmia, in 2007, and the fifth in the City of Zagreb in 2008. The conclusion of the participants at the seminars was that there has been a significant improvement in the exercise of national minority rights, and in that regard the Croatian Government was commended for its measures and support provided for the exercise of national minority rights. Examples of good coexistence, understanding and functioning of members of different ethnicities were presented, as well as of the support of local and regional authorities, contributing thus to achieving a high level of national minority rights.

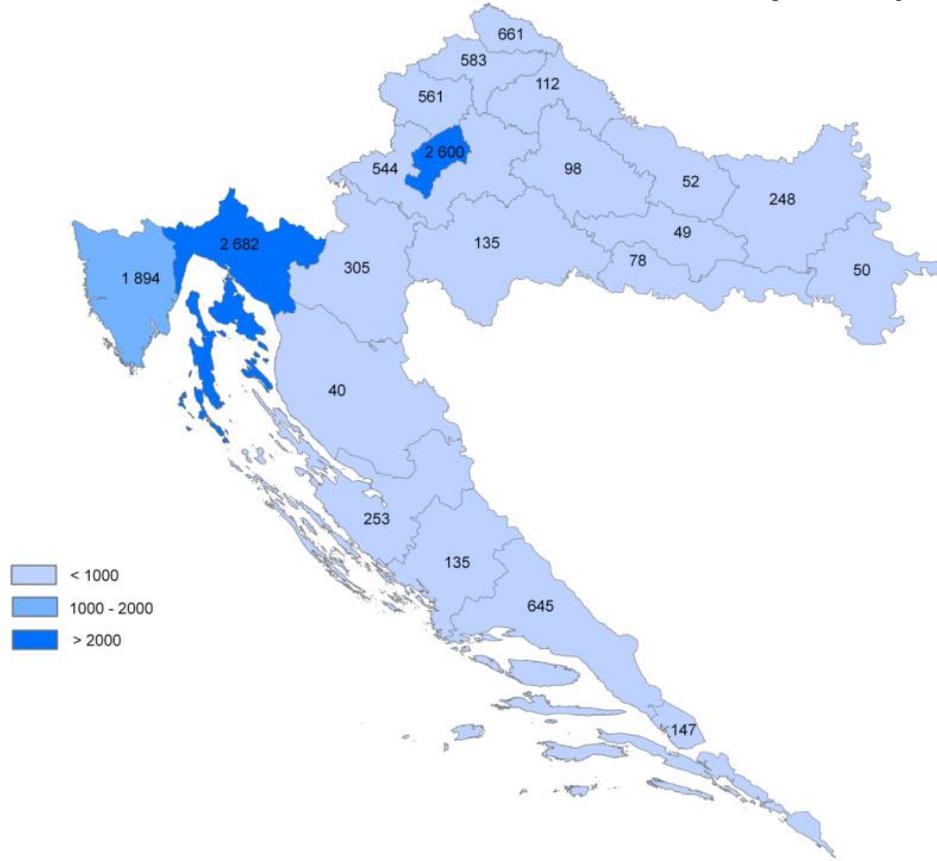
### **3.4 Situation concerning the Slovenian language**

- (52) With regard to the question of the Committee of Experts from paragraph 47 [ECRML (2008)1; MIN-LANG (2008)27] on the situation concerning the status of the Slovenian language, and further to previous Periodical Reports of the Republic of Croatia, in particular regarding the data presented in response to the Recommendation no. 8 of the Council of Ministers of the Council of Europe from the Third Periodical Report by the Republic of Croatia [MIN-LANG/PR (2006) 4, p. 10], it needs to be emphasized that, in the declaration appended to its instrument of ratification, the Republic of Croatia opted for the protection of 7 minority languages pursuant to Part III of the Charter, while, in practice, the rights guaranteed by the Charter are enjoyed by other minority languages as well. Thus the good practice of promoting the objectives and principles of the protection of minority language is applied to other minority languages in the Republic of Croatia as well. To that effect, Croatia invests significant financial resources (see paragraphs (56)-(64)) in the implementation of activities for promotion of the protection of the Slovenian language.
- (53) According to the last census, from 2001, there are 13,173 members of the Slovene national minority in Croatia, accounting for 0.3 % of the total population. Out of that number, 11,872 persons stated Slovenian as their mother tongue, which accounts for 0.27 % of the total population. As many as 12,235 members of the Slovenian national minority, i.e. 92.87 %, are dispersed across the entire state territory, whereas only 938 members of the Slovene national minority, i.e. 7.12 %, have permanent residence in areas bordering the Republic of Slovenia.
- (54) The Republic of Croatia acknowledges traditional existence of the Slovenian language on its territory. However, it is widely dispersed and cannot be associated with a particular geographic area. Picture 1 is a clear display of the portion and distribution of Slovenian speakers on the territory of the Republic of Croatia – the portion ranges from the maximum of 0.98 % of the local population in the County of Istria up to mere 0.02 % in the County of Vukovar-Syrmia. Picture 2 gives an overview of the absolute number of Slovenian native speakers by counties.

Picture 1 – Percentage of Slovenian native speakers in relation to the remaining population by counties



**Picture 2 - Overview of the absolute number of Slovenian native speakers by counties**



(55) Nevertheless, it should be stressed once again that, regardless of the fact that there is no declaration on the protection of the Slovenian language pursuant to the Charter provisions, this does not signify that Slovenian does not enjoy all the rights and full protection of the Republic of Croatia under positive law. The Republic of Croatia promotes the protection of the rights of the Slovenian national minority, encourages the use of Slovenian in all the areas of social activity where a real possibility for that exists, and takes concrete measures to that effect. Below is an overview of the activities of the Republic of Croatia for the promotion of the use of Slovenian.

(56) The fundamental domestic piece of legislation regulating the rights of national minority members in the Republic of Croatia is the *Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities* (OG 155/02), which is an organic law, and as such has sub-constitutional but supra-legislative status, overriding any other primary or secondary legislation. According to the 2001 census, members of the Slovene national minority are among those living in the Republic of Croatia, and hence enjoy the protection and all the rights pursuant to the provisions of the *Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities*.

(57) In the field of primary **education**, members of the Slovenian national minority are educated under Model C, and the initiative has been launched for learning the Slovenian language and culture.

- (58) **Librarianship activities** in the Republic of Croatia are performed by the central libraries of the national minorities, and the central library of the Slovene national minority is the Town Library "Ivan Goran Kovačić" in Karlovac, for the functioning of which 126,116.09 HRK were allocated from the State Budget in 2006, 134,832.51 HRK in 2007, 146,922.93 HRK in 2008, and 146,335,72 HRK in 2009. Furthermore, for the purposes of press and book publishing activities, 1,600 HRK were allocated in 2006 for the programme entitled *Bizjak Martin: Orel, Štandeker i Rotar u Puli*, organised by the Slovene Cultural Society "Istra" from Pula.
- (59) For the members of the Slovene national minority, funds are allocated for the **triannual magazine** in Slovenian *Novi odmev*, published by the Cultural Education Society "Slovenski dom" from Zagreb, as well as the monthly *Planika* in the Slovenian language, published by the Slovene Society "Triglav" from Split. In addition to the above publications, two more information bulletins, *Kažipot* and *Mavrica*, have started to receive funds from the Budget.
- (60) Members of the Slovene national minority perform **cultural activities** through the Union of Slovene Societies, which comprises Cultural Society "Slovenski dom" Zagreb, Cultural Education Society "Bazovica" Rijeka, Cultural Society "Triglav" Split, Cultural Association "France Prešeren" Šibenik, Cultural Society "Lipa" Zadar, Cultural Society "Istra" Pula, Cultural Society "Snežnik" Lovran, Cultural Society "Stanko Vraz" Osijek and Cultural Society "Lipa" Dubrovnik. Within those societies there are choirs, theatre groups, folklore ensembles, and art exhibitions are organised. The Cultural Education Society "Bazovica" Rijeka has been active for over 50 years and organises performances of their mixed choir. The Cultural Education Society "Slovenski dom" in Zagreb organises activities of a mixed and a female choir, popular lectures, exhibitions, concerts and celebrations of the cultural holiday "Prešeren Day". The Slovene Society "Triglav" from Split organises performances of their mixed choir and folklore ensemble, and organises painting exhibitions.
- (61) Every year, the Council for the National Minorities allocates funds to national minority associations through the *Decision on the distribution of funds allocated from the State Budget of the Republic of Croatia*, with a view to promoting minority rights, which, among other things, include the right to use one's native minority language. Annual reports on the spent resources are produced pursuant to the provisions of the *Monitoring Methodology for the Realisation of the Programmes of NGOs and National Minority Institutions* (OG 111/03). An overview of the resources allocated from the State Budget in 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 is given below.

**Table 1 – Resources allocated in 2006**

TITLE OF THE ACTIVITY	RESOURCES GRANTED	RESOURCES SPENT
<b>UNION OF SLOVENE SOCIETIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA</b>	<b>590,000</b>	<b>590,000</b>
<b>1. Publicity</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>150,000</b>
1.1. <i>Novi odmev</i> (3 issues, 28 pages, format A, circulation 750 copies/issue)	64,000	64,000
1.2. <i>Planika</i> (6 issues, 20 pages, format A4, circulation 150 copies/issue)	38,000	38,000
1.3. <i>Information Bulletin</i> , monthly (12 issues, 30 pages, format A4, circulation 500 copies/issue)	30,000	30,000
1.4. Overhead expenses	18,000	18,000
<b>2. Publishing</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>
2.1. <i>Kraški zvončiči</i> , a collection of poems by Damijana Pezdirc (circulation 300 copies)	5,000	5,000
<b>3. Amateur culture</b>	<b>435,000</b>	<b>435,000</b>
3.1. „ <i>Slovenski dom</i> “, Zagreb	92,000	92,000
• mixed choir	40,000	40,000
• mixed choir of the spiritual group “ <i>A.M.S</i> ”	10,000	10,000
• painting exhibitions	15,000	15,000
• theatre group	5,000	5,000
• folklore ensemble Slovenica	15,000	15,000
• Slovene Cultural Holiday, Croatian National Holiday and Slovene National Holiday	7,000	7,000
3.2. Slovene Society “ <i>Triglav</i> ”, Split	95,000	95,000
• art exhibitions	15,000	15,000
• mixed choir “ <i>Triglav</i> ”	40,000	40,000
• independent exhibitions of the Idrija lace	15,000	15,000
• Autumn encounter	10,000	10,000
• 10. anniversary of the mixed choir “ <i>Triglav</i> ”	5,000	5,000
• Slovene Cultural Holiday in Split	5,000	5,000
• Croatian National Holiday and Slovenian National Holiday	5,000	5,000
3.3. Cultural Education Society “ <i>Bazovica</i> “, Rijeka	110,000	110,000
• drama and recital group	35,000	35,000
• folkloric dance ensemble	10,000	10,000
• art and other exhibitions	10,000	10,000
• mixed choir	45,000	45,000
• literary group library	5,000	5,000
• guest performances of the society in 2006	5,000	5,000

<b>TITLE OF THE ACTIVITY</b>	<b>RESOURCES GRANTED</b>	<b>RESOURCES SPENT</b>
3.4. Slovene Association “ <i>France Prešern</i> ”, Šibenik <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• musical group “<i>Prešernovke</i>”</li> <li>• ethno group “<i>Pridne ruke</i>”</li> <li>• 10 years of the Society “<i>dr. France Prešeren</i>”</li> </ul>	38,000 20,000 10,000 8,000	38,000 20,000 10,000 8,000
3.5. Slovenian Cultural Society “ <i>Lipa</i> ”, Dubrovnik <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prešeren Day and St. Blasius Day</li> <li>• Easter customs</li> <li>• Slovene folk song</li> </ul>	20,000 12,000 5,000 5,000	20,000 12,000 5,000 5,000
3.6. Slovene Cultural Society “ <i>Istra</i> ”, Pula <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mixed choir</li> <li>• folklore ensemble</li> </ul>	15,000 10,000 5,000	15,000 10,000 5,000
3.7. Slovene Cultural Education Society “ <i>Snežnik</i> ”, Lovran <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• meeting of the choirs</li> </ul>	5,000 5,000	5,000 5,000
3.8. Overhead expenses	60,000	60,000

**Table 2 – Resources allocated in 2007**

TITLE OF THE ACTIVITY	RESOURCES GRANTED	RESOURCES SPENT
<b>UNION OF SLOVENE SOCIETIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA, ZAGREB</b>	<b>696,500</b>	<b>696,500</b>
<b>1. Publicity</b>	<b>172,000</b>	<b>172,000</b>
1.1. <i>Novi odmev</i> 6 issues, 20 pages, format A, circulation 150 copies/issue)	68,000	68,000
1.2. <i>Planika</i> 6 issues, 20 pages, format A4, circulation 150 copies/issue)	40,000	40,000
1.3. <i>Kažipot</i> , monthly information bulletin (12 issues, 30 pages, circulation 50 copies/issue, A4)	35,000	35,000
1.4. <i>Mavrica</i> , 4 issues (circulation 350 copies/issue, 24 pages)	7,000	7,000
1.5. Overhead expenses	22,000	22,000
<b>2. Publishing</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>
2.1. Croatian-Slovenian Children's Dictionary (Pula)	5,000	5,000
<b>3. Amateur culture</b>	<b>450,500</b>	<b>450,500</b>
3.1. „Slovenski dom“, Zagreb	109,000	109,000
• mixed choir	48,000	48,000
• mixed choir of the spiritual group “A.M.S”	12,000	12,000
• painting exhibitions	15,000	15,000
• creative workshop Šopek	7,000	7,000
• Folklore ensemble Slovenica	17,000	17,000
• Slovene Cultural Holiday, Croatian National Holiday and Slovene National Holiday	10,000	10,000
3.2. Slovene Society “Triglav“, Split	111,000	111,000
• Tabor – Stična, Rijeka, Zagreb, choirs	50,000	50,000
• art exhibitions	7,000	7,000
• Idrija lace	20,000	20,000
• 10. anniversary of the drama group	18,000	18,000
• Slovene Cultural Holiday	10,000	10,000
• Croatian National Holiday and Slovenian National Holiday	6,000	6,000
3.3. Cultural Education Society “Bazovica“, Rijeka	130,000	130,000
• drama and recital group	40,000	40,000
• folkloric dance ensemble	10,000	10,000
• art and other exhibitions	13,000	13,000
• mixed choir	53,000	53,000
• literary group library	5,000	5,000

TITLE OF THE ACTIVITY	RESOURCES GRANTED	RESOURCES SPENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• guest performances of the society in 2007</li> </ul>	9,000	9,000
3.4. Slovene Association “ <i>France Prešeren</i> “, Šibenik <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• musical group “<i>Prešernovke</i>”</li> <li>• ethno group “<i>Pridne ruke</i>”</li> <li>• Slovene Cultural Holiday</li> </ul>	49,500	49,500
3.5. Slovenian Cultural Society “ <i>Lipa</i> “, Dubrovnik <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prešeren Day and St. Blasius Day</li> <li>• guest performances of the society</li> </ul>	23,000	23,000
3.6. Slovene Cultural Society “ <i>Istra</i> “, Pula <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mixed choir</li> </ul>	15,000	15,000
3.7. Slovene Cultural Education Society “ <i>Snežnik</i> “, Lovran <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• meeting of the choirs</li> <li>• painting and photography exhibition</li> </ul>	13,000	13,000
3.8. Overhead expenses	69,000	69,000

**Table 3 – Resources allocated in 2008**

TITLE OF THE ACTIVITY	RESOURCES GRANTED	RESOURCES SPENT
<b>UNION OF SLOVENE SOCIETIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA, ZAGREB</b>	<b>822,000</b>	<b>822,000</b>
<b>1. Publicity</b>	<b>210,000</b>	<b>210,000</b>
1.1. <i>Novi odmev</i> , magazine (3 issues, 20 pages, format A4, circulation 750 copies/issue)	78,000	78,000
1.2. <i>Planika</i> (6 issues, 20 pages, format A4, circulation 300 copies/issue)	48,000	48,000
1.3. <i>Kažipot</i> , monthly information bulletin (2 issues, 30 pages, circulation 400 copies/issue, format A5)	10,000	10,000
1.4. <i>Mavrica</i> , the Society bulletin (4 issues (circulation 350 copies/issue, format 17x24, 24 pages)	12,000	12,000
1.5. <i>Kažipot</i> , information bulletin (12 issues, circulation 700 copies/issue, format A4)	40,000	40,000
1.6. Overhead expenses	22,000	22,000
<b>2. Publishing</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>
2.1. monographic bulletins <i>Slovenska baština u PGŽ</i> by Marjana Mirković (circulation 1,500 copies, format A4)	5,000	5,000
2.2. book/monograph <i>Slovenski dom Bazovica (1947-2007)</i> “, by Prof. Barbara Riman and Mr.Sc. Kristina Riman (55-60 sheets, circulation 400 copies, format 24x30)	15,000	15,000
<b>3. Amateur culture and cultural events</b>	<b>592,000</b>	<b>592,000</b>
3.1. „ <i>Slovenski dom</i> “, Zagreb	120,000	120,000
3.1.1. Amateur culture		
• mixed choir	60,000	60,000
• mixed choir of the spiritual group “A.M.S”	20,000	20,000
• creative workshop Šopek	10,000	10,000
• folklore ensemble Slovenica	20,000	20,000
3.1.2. Cultural events		
• Slovene Cultural holiday, Croatian National Holiday and Slovene National Holiday	5,000	5,000
• Slovenian EU Presidency	5,000	5,000
3.2. Slovene Society “ <i>Triglav</i> “, Split	130,000	130,000
3.2.1. Amateur culture		
• drama group and traditional holidays	10,000	10,000
• art exhibitions	10,000	10,000

TITLE OF THE ACTIVITY	RESOURCES GRANTED	RESOURCES SPENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Idrija lace</li> <li>• mixed choir</li> </ul>	35,000	35,000
3.2.2. Cultural events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slovene Cultural Holiday</li> <li>• Croatian National Holiday and Slovenian National Holiday</li> </ul>	55,000	55,000
3.3. Cultural Education Society “Bazovica“, Rijeka <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.3.1. Amateur culture               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slovene Cultural Holiday</li> <li>• Croatian National Holiday and Slovenian National Holiday</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	12,000	12,000
3.3. Cultural Education Society “Bazovica“, Rijeka <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.3.1. Amateur culture               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mixed choir</li> <li>• folkloric dance ensemble</li> <li>• literary group library</li> <li>• art and other exhibitions</li> <li>• guest performances of the society</li> <li>• drama and recital group</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	8,000	8,000
3.3. Cultural Education Society “Bazovica“, Rijeka <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.3.1. Amateur culture               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mixed choir</li> <li>• folkloric dance ensemble</li> <li>• literary group library</li> <li>• art and other exhibitions</li> <li>• guest performances of the society</li> <li>• drama and recital group</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	146,000	146,000
3.4. Slovene Association “France Prešeren“, Šibenik <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.4.1. Amateur culture               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mixed choir</li> <li>• folkloric dance ensemble</li> <li>• literary group library</li> <li>• art and other exhibitions</li> <li>• guest performances of the society</li> <li>• drama and recital group</li> </ul> </li> <li>3.4.2. Cultural events               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ethno group “Pridne ruke”, mixed choir and group</li> <li>• female choir „Prešenovke“</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	55,000	55,000
3.4. Slovene Association “France Prešeren“, Šibenik <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.4.1. Amateur culture               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ethno group “Pridne ruke”, mixed choir and group</li> <li>• female choir „Prešenovke“</li> </ul> </li> <li>3.4.2. Cultural events               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slovenian Days of Culture – <i>Prešeren Day</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	15,000	15,000
3.4. Slovene Association “France Prešeren“, Šibenik <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.4.1. Amateur culture               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ethno group “Pridne ruke”, mixed choir and group</li> <li>• female choir „Prešenovke“</li> </ul> </li> <li>3.4.2. Cultural events               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slovenian Days of Culture – <i>Prešeren Day</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	30,000	30,000
3.4. Slovene Association “France Prešeren“, Šibenik <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.4.2. Cultural events               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slovenian Days of Culture – <i>Prešeren Day</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	10,000	10,000
3.5. Slovene Cultural Society “Lipa“, Zadar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.5.1. Cultural events               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art Colony - exhibition</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	10,000	10,000
3.5. Slovene Cultural Society “Lipa“, Zadar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.5.1. Cultural events               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art Colony - exhibition</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	10,000	10,000
3.6. Slovene Cultural Society “Istra“, Pula <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.6.1. Amateur culture               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mixed choir and group</li> </ul> </li> <li>3.6.2. Cultural events               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Days of Slovenian Culture</li> <li>• Slovene Cultural Holiday, 8 February</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	40,000	40,000
3.6. Slovene Cultural Society “Istra“, Pula <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.6.1. Amateur culture               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mixed choir and group</li> </ul> </li> <li>3.6.2. Cultural events               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Days of Slovenian Culture</li> <li>• Slovene Cultural Holiday, 8 February</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	20,000	20,000
3.6. Slovene Cultural Society “Istra“, Pula <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.6.2. Cultural events               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Days of Slovenian Culture</li> <li>• Slovene Cultural Holiday, 8 February</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	15,000	15,000
3.6. Slovene Cultural Society “Istra“, Pula <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.6.2. Cultural events               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slovene Cultural Holiday, 8 February</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	5,000	5,000
3.7. Slovene Cultural Education Society “Snežnik“, Lovran <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.7.1. Amateur culture               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• meetings of the choirs</li> </ul> </li> <li>3.7.2. Cultural events               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• painting and photography exhibition</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	15,000	15,000
3.7. Slovene Cultural Education Society “Snežnik“, Lovran <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.7.1. Amateur culture               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• meetings of the choirs</li> </ul> </li> <li>3.7.2. Cultural events               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• painting and photography exhibition</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	10,000	10,000
3.7. Slovene Cultural Education Society “Snežnik“, Lovran <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.7.2. Cultural events               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• painting and photography exhibition</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	5,000	5,000

<b>TITLE OF THE ACTIVITY</b>	<b>RESOURCES GRANTED</b>	<b>RESOURCES SPENT</b>
3.8. Slovene Cultural Society “ <i>Stanko Vraz</i> ”, Osijek	13,000	13,000
3.8.1. Cultural events		
• Days of Slovenian Culture in Osijek	13,000	13,000
3.9. Slovenian Cultural Society “ <i>Lipa</i> “, Dubrovnik	25,000	25,000
3.9.1. Cultural events		
• “ <i>Kulturni most</i> ” – 500 years of Marin Držić and Primož Trubar	11,000	11,000
• “ <i>Bralna kultura</i> ”	4,000	4,000
• Slovenian National Holiday (Dravograd Octet concert)	10,000	10,000
3.10. Cultural Society “ <i>Slovenski dom</i> ”, Karlovac	6,000	6,000
3.10.1. Amateur culture		
• public holiday “ <i>Prešeren Day</i> ”, Slovene Days in Karlovac	4,000	4,000
• Society members’ creative works exhibitions	2,000	2,000
3.11. Overhead expenses	32,000	32,000

**Table 4 – Resources allocated in 2009**

TITLE OF THE ACTIVITY	RESOURCES GRANTED
<b>UNION OF SLOVENE SOCIETIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA, ZAGREB</b>	<b>864,000</b>
<b>1. Publicity</b>	<b>213,000</b>
1.1. <i>Novi odmev</i> , magazine (3 issues, 28 pages, format A4, circulation 750 copies/issue)	78,000
1.2. <i>Planika</i> (6 issues, 20-24 pages, format A4, circulation 350 copies/issue)	42,000
1.3. <i>Liburnijska priloga-Kažipot</i> , yearbook (circulation 400 copies/issue, 2 issues, format A5, 24 pages)	7,000
1.4. <i>Mavrica</i> (4 issues, circulation 350 copies/issue, 17x24, 24 pages)	16,000
1.5. <i>Kažipot</i> , information bulletin (11 issues, circulation 700 copies/issue, format A5)	40,000
1.6. Overhead expenses	30,000
<b>2. Publishing</b>	<b>33,000</b>
2.1. Annex to the monograph <i>Slovenski dom 1929-2009</i> , by Ilinka Todorovski and Silvin Jerman (circulation 500 copies/issue, 50 pages, format A4)	12,000
2.2. book/monograph <i>ovenski dom Bazovica (1947-2007)</i> “, by Prof. Barbara Riman and Mr.Sc. Kristina Riman (55-60 sheets, circulation 400 copies, format 24x30 (bilingual))	15,000
2.3. monographic bulletins <i>Slovenska baština u PGŽ</i> by Marjana Mirković (circulation 1,500 copies, 24 sheets, format A4)	6,000
<b>3. Amateur culture and cultural events</b>	<b>618,000</b>
3.1. „Slovenski dom“, Zagreb	126,000
3.1.1. Amateur culture	103,000
• mixed choir	60,000
• mixed choir of the spiritual group “A.M.Slomšek”	20,000
• creative workshop	8,000
• ensemble Slovenica	5,000
• exhibitions in Slovenski dom	10,000
3.1.2. Cultural events	23,000
• Slovene Cultural Holiday, Croatian National Holiday and Slovene National Holiday	10,000
• 80 years of Slovenski dom	13,000
3.2. Slovene Society “Triglav“ Split	134,000
3.2.1. Amateur culture	110,000
• drama group and traditional holidays	10,000
• art exhibitions	10,000
• Idrija lace	35,000
• mixed choir	55,000
3.2.2. Cultural events	24,000

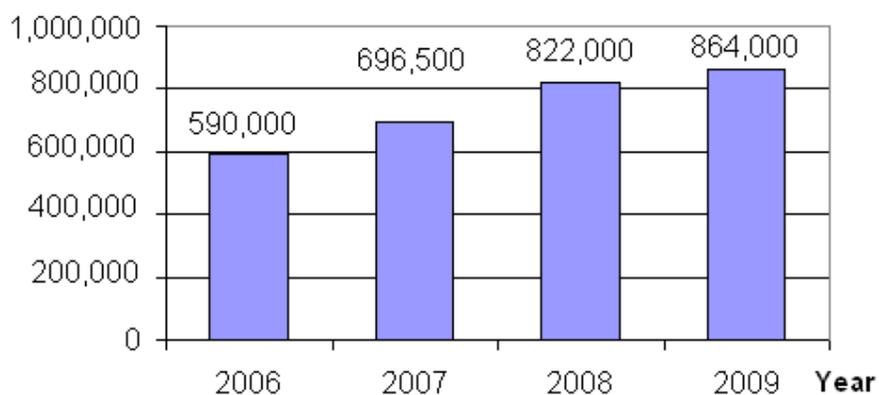
TITLE OF THE ACTIVITY	RESOURCES GRANTED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slovene Cultural Holiday – Cultural Bridge/Culture Without Frontiers</li> <li>• Croatian National Holiday and Slovenian National Holiday</li> </ul>	<p>14,000</p> <p>10,000</p>
<p>3.3. Cultural Education Society “Bazovica“ Rijeka</p> <p>3.3.1. Amateur culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mixed choir</li> <li>• folkloric dance ensemble</li> <li>• literary group library</li> <li>• art and other exhibitions</li> <li>• guest performances of the society</li> <li>• drama and recital group</li> </ul>	<p>150,000</p> <p>60,000</p> <p>10,000</p> <p>5,000</p> <p>15,000</p> <p>15,000</p> <p>45,000</p>
<p>3.4. Slovene Association “France Prešeren“, Šibenik</p> <p>3.4.1. Amateur culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ethno group “Pridne ruke“ mixed choir and group</li> <li>• female choir „Prešenovke“</li> </ul> <p>3.4.2. Cultural events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slovenian Days of Culture – Prešeren Day</li> <li>• Slovene Cultural Society “Lipa“, Zadar</li> </ul> <p>3.4.3. Cultural events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slovene cultural holiday “Prešeren Day”</li> <li>• Art Colony Turanj 2009 – exhibition</li> </ul>	<p>57,000</p> <p>47,000</p> <p>15,000</p> <p>32,000</p> <p>10,000</p> <p>10,000</p> <p>13,000</p> <p>4,000</p> <p>9,000</p>
<p>3.5. Slovene Cultural Society “Istra“, Pula</p> <p>3.5.1. Amateur culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mixed choir and group</li> </ul> <p>3.5.2. Cultural events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Days of Slovenian Culture</li> <li>• Slovene Cultural Holiday, 8 February</li> <li>• 3 art exhibitions during 2009</li> </ul>	<p>43,000</p> <p>20,000</p> <p>15,000</p> <p>6,000</p> <p>2,000</p>
<p>3.6. Slovene Cultural Education Society “Snežnik“, Lovran</p> <p>3.6.1. Amateur culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• meetings of the choirs</li> </ul> <p>3.6.2. Cultural events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• exhibitions of paintings, photography and handicraft</li> <li>• Slovenian Film Days</li> </ul>	<p>16,000</p> <p>10,000</p> <p>5,000</p> <p>1,000</p>
<p>3.7. Slovene Cultural Society “Stanko Vraz“, Osijek</p> <p>3.7.1. Cultural events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Days of Slovenian Culture in Osijek 2009</li> </ul>	<p>14,000</p> <p>14,000</p>
<p>3.8. Slovenian Cultural Society “Lipa“ Dubrovnik</p> <p>3.8.1. Cultural events</p>	<p>23,000</p>

TITLE OF THE ACTIVITY	RESOURCES GRANTED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Cultural Bridge” – exhibition of paintings by academic painters from Croatia and Slovenia</li> </ul>	8,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of the children’s book <i>Vrtitačke</i> by academic Luka Paljetak</li> </ul>	10,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Holiday</li> </ul>	5,000
3.9. Cultural Society “Slovenski dom“, Karlovac	7,000
3.9.1. Amateur culture	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slovene Cultural Holiday “Prešeren Day”</li> </ul>	7,000
3.10. Overhead expenses	35,000

(62) In the period from 2006-2009, associations of the Slovene national minority were allocated resources from the State Budget for amateur culture programmes, cultural events and other activities for the promotion of the Slovenian language and culture, in the amount of **2,972,500.00 HRK**, and the individual annual amounts have increased on a regular basis, as shown in Picture 3. It should be noted that the Republic of Croatia is aware of the importance of protection and promotion of minority languages, so that even in the situation when the Croatian GDP, according to the estimates of the Croatian National Bank for 2009, has fallen by over 5% as a consequence of the global economic crisis, and significant budgetary cuts were necessary in different areas of social activity, the allocations for the Slovenian national minority have not decreased, but were, in fact, increased.

**Picture 3 – Overview of the resources allocated from the State Budget to Slovenian national minority associations in the period 2006-2009**

**Amount in HRK**



(63) In the field of **public media**, we should emphasize the representation of topics addressing the Slovenian national minority members on the Croatian Television in a series of programmes such as: *Prizma* (20 reports in 2007, 24 reports in 2008), *Zagrebačka panorama* (informative programme, one report in 2008), programme for children and youth, and documentary

programme (a programme about the well-known Slovenian director, theatre theoretician and practitioner Dragan Živadinov).

- (64) As regards the activities in the field of **cross-border cooperation, international agreements and cultural cooperation programmes**, it should be noted that the *Protocol of Sports Cooperation between the Ministry of Science, Education and Sport of the Republic of Croatia and the Ministry of Education and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia for the Period 2005-2009* was signed and entered into force on 26 August 2005.
- (65) In accordance with the initiative of the Committee of Experts to clear up the issue of traditional presence of the Slovenian language in the Republic of Croatia in cooperation with Slovenian speakers, the Republic of Croatia continued with the common practice of active involvement of national minority members in the development of the present report (see *supra* para. (4), (5), (6)). Annex 2 of the report contains the full text of the response statement by the Union of Slovene Societies.

### 3.5 Istro-Romanian dialect variants, variant of Hum na Sutli and variant of Bednja

- (66) With regard to the question of the Committee of Experts from paragraph 48 [ECRML (2008)1; MIN-LANG (2008)27], we state that the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia issued a decision, pursuant to the *Act on the Protection and Preservation of Cultural Goods* (OG 69/99, 151/03, and 157/03) and the *Ordinance on the Register of Cultural Goods of the Republic of Croatia* (OG 37/01), establishing that **Istro-Romanian dialect variants, the variant of Hum na Sutli and the variant of Bednja** have the attribute of a cultural good, and were as such registered in the list of protected cultural goods of the Register of Cultural Goods of the Republic of Croatia.
- (67) With a view to protecting the above dialects, the following system of measures was established:
- promotion of the function and significance of the above dialects in the society, and inclusion of the protection of the dialects in the planning programmes,
  - ensurance of sustainability of the dialects through education, identification, documentation, scientific research, preservation, protection, promotion, increase in value, possibility of transferring tradition to descendants through informal and formal education, and revival of abandoned dialect segments,
  - sensitivising of the public and support for the protection and preservation of goods by identifying globalisation and social transformation processes, in order to avoid the risk of extinction, destruction or commercialisation of the dialects, and to encourage cohesion and tolerance among people,
  - encouragement of the development of dictionaries and grammars of the dialects
- (68) **Istro-Romanian dialect variants** are spoken in only about a dozen villages and hamlets in Istria, and constitute the smallest group among the four historical Romanian dialects, measured by the number of speakers. The speakers are divided into two groups, the northern and the southern, and there has been no connection between them for a long time now, so that the dialects develop independently of each other. Speakers of the northern group of Istro-Romanian dialect variants live in the village of Žejane, while the speakers of the southern group live on the northern and western edge of Čepičko polje, in several villages of the

municipality of Kršan. Istro-Romanian dialect variants are a mixture of Romanian, Croatian and Italian. In relation to other Romanian dialects, it resembles Daco-Romanian the most.

- (69) The variant of Žajane is more conservative than the southern variants. The village of Žejane has about a hundred inhabitants, about a dozen of them under 20. They all understand Istro-Romanian to some extent, and most of them can use it with no difficulties.
- (70) In the south, Istro-Romanian speakers are scattered around smaller villages, their number being even smaller than in Žejane. In the southern villages, only about twenty people use Istro-Romanian nowadays, and there are hardly any children. Nova Vas has most Istro-Romanian speakers (fourty odd of them), followed by Šušnjeвица (thirty odd), and Jasenovik (about a dozen). In other villages there are under a dozen speakers, meaning that the total number of Istro-Romanian speakers does not exceed 250. Istro-Romanian speakers do not identify with the Romanian national corpus, and most commonly declare themselves as Croats in the censuses, while the surrounding population calls them Vlachs or Čići.
- (71) **The variant of Hum na Sutli** is one of the most interesting, most complicated and most arhaic variant of the Kajkavian dialect. We distinguish between the variant of Donja Sutla and the variant of Gornja Sutla. The geographical location of Hum contributed to the peculiarity of this dialect variant, as Hum is located directly by the Sutla river and is practically integrated with the neighbouring Slovenian municipality of Rogatec into a single urban unit with a few thousand inhabitants. The entire municipality of Hum na Sutli comprises, apart from the central and biggest village of the same name, seventeen more surrounding villages: Klenovec Humski, Strmec Humski, Lupinjak, Rusnica, Orešje Humsko, Vrbišnica, Druškovec Humski, Druškovec Gora, Brezno gora, Donje Brezno, Gornje Brezno, Zalug, Poredje, Grletinec, Prišlin and Mali Tabor. Speakers of the dialect variant are the inhabitants of Hum na Sutli. The language changes, but the dialect variant of Hum is described in detail, and a grammar and dictionary of the dialect are developed.
- (72) **The variant of Bednja** belongs to the Kajkavian dialect of the central Zagorje region and constitutes part of the basic, conservative group of Kajkavian variants. The variant of Bednja is spoken in the village of Bednja and the surrounding villages Viletinec, Vrhovec Bednjanski, Bedkovec, Želimor, Podgorje, Prebukovje, Meljan, Trakoščan, Purga, Šinkovica, Gorenc, Osonjak, Ježovec, Rinkovec, Sveti Josip and Vranjelje. The above villages constitute a single geographical unit, as they are separated from the neighbouring settlements by the mountains of Ivančica, Maceljska gora and Ravna gora. In fact, it is these geographical reasons that caused a specific linguistic development of that restricted area. The language changes, hence the existing descriptions of the dialect variant of Bednja should be supplemented by more recent surveys.

## 4. PART III

### 4.1 Territorial scope of the application of the undertakings entered into by the Republic of Croatia under Part III of the Charter

- (73) With regard to the Recommendation 1 of the Committee of Ministers from the second evaluation report [ECRML (2005)3] and the question of the Committee of Ministers from paragraph 56 of the third evaluation report [ECRML (2008)1; MIN-LANG (2008)27], and in accordance with the announcement from the Third Periodical Report [MIN-LANG/PR (2006)4], the Republic of Croatia reviewed the declaration appended to the instrument of ratification in terms of the territorial scope of the application of the undertakings entered into by the Republic of Croatia under Part III of the *Charter*, in two meetings of the interdepartmental expert working group, held on 25 and 27 August 2009, with the participation of international law experts from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, human rights experts of the Ministry of Justice, Head of the Government Office for National Minorities of the Republic of Croatia and Chairman of the Council for National Minorities.
- (74) After a detailed review of the arguments presented in the previous evaluation reports of the Committee of Experts, and a thorough analysis of the existent domestic legislative framework regulating the territorial scope of the application of the Charter, it was established that there is no need at this moment to amend domestic legislation regulating the mode of protection of the right to use minority languages and scripts, nor to amend the declaration appended to the instrument of ratification with regard to the issue in question, since: (i) the existing legislative framework for the protection of the rights of national minorities is at a satisfactory level; (ii) the territories covered by the undertakings under Part III of the *Charter* can be determined precisely and unequivocally, (iii) the statutes of local and regional self-government units are subject to supervision by the head of the central state administration body.
- (i) *The existing legislative framework for the protection of the rights of national minorities in the Republic of Croatia is at a satisfactory level*
- (75) At the beginning, it needs to be emphasized that the Republic of Croatia is deeply committed to the protection and promotion of all the rights of national minorities, including those guaranteed by the *Charter*, related to the languages and scripts of national minorities. Although Member States of the Council of Europe are not obliged to ratify the *Charter*, the Republic of Croatia recognised multiple benefits of the ratification of the *Charter* for the further development of human rights protection and for strengthening tolerance between different nationalities in the domestic legal system, so that it was in fact with the ratification of the *Charter* by the Republic of Croatia, as the fifth Member State to ratify it, that the *Charter* entered into force.
- (76) In the previous periodical reports (p.10 [MIN-LANG/PR (99) 3]; paragraph 2 *et seq.* on p. 4 [MIN-LANG/PR (2003) 4]), the Republic of Croatia gave a detailed report on the provisions of the *Constitution of the Republic of Croatia* (OG 44/01 – consolidated text), the *Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities* (OG 155/02) and the *Act on the Use of the Languages and Scripts of National Minorities* (OG 51/00), which regulate the mode of

protecting minority languages, as well as the mechanism of determining the fields for seven minority languages to which the undertakings from Part III of the *Charter* apply. In short, the Republic of Croatia decided to issue a declaration on the territorial scope of the application of the undertakings under Part III of the *Charter* in such a way that the territorial scope in question is determined through a mechanism of percentages, international agreements and the statutes of local and regional self-government. It is important to add that the above legal regulations do not change or abolish the rights of national minorities acquired under international agreements to which the Republic of Croatia is a Party, nor the rights acquired under the regulations applicable until 27 May 2000, when the *Act on the Use of the Languages and Scripts of National Minorities* entered into force.

- (77) In paragraph 50 of the third evaluation report [ECRML (2008)1], the Committee of Experts holds that the Croatian legal framework needs to be adapted. However, the Republic of Croatia holds that the existing legislative framework for the protection of the rights of national minorities, and hence also the protection of the speakers of regional or minority languages, is satisfactory.
- (78) The Croatian legislative framework for the protection of the rights of national minorities has undergone several changes in the last decade, in line with the suggestions of the Council of Europe, and especially as a result of the First Opinion on Croatia concerning the application of the *Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities* [ACFC/OP/i(2001)2], [ACFC/INF/OP/I(2002)003]. After the proposed legislative amendments had been adopted, the Second Opinion concerning the application of the *Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities* states that the legislative framework for the protection of the rights of national minorities in the Republic of Croatia is, generally speaking, satisfactory, with a remark that additional efforts are needed to ensure the best possible implementation of it [para. 8, 19 and 114 ACFC/INF/OP/II(2004)002].
- (79) In accordance with the above, the Republic of Croatia holds that the system of protection of national minorities envisaged by the *Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities* should not be viewed merely through the prism of the portion of one-third of the population, which is the requirement for automatic introduction of equal and official protection of a minority language, but that the emphasis should be on the provisions of the Constitutional Act which envisage the possibility of introducing the protection of a minority language through the statute of a particular local or regional self-government unit, as well as on the provisions of the *Act on the Use of the Languages and Scripts of National Minorities* which contain a system for controlling statute provisions, or the mechanisms available in the event that a statute is not adopted (for details, see paragraphs (89)-(91) *infra*). The above stated mode of protection of the rights of national minorities is adjusted to the specific nature of the Croatian society, since it envisages a mechanism which is flexible enough and which enables the introduction of the protection of a minority language in areas which are not necessarily geographically connected, but where the need may arise for introducing additional protection for a certain minority language.
- (80) The Republic of Croatia is aware of the fact that, in terms of the implementation of the provisions of the Constitutional Act in practice, there is still room for further improvement of the implementation at the local level, and it is striving to contribute to improving the conditions of regional or minority language protection as much as its political and economic reality allow. Nevertheless, interventions in the existing legislative framework, as suggested by the Committee of Experts, in such a way that the territorial scope of the application of the

undertakings under Part III of the *Charter* is determined differently, would not, in the opinion of the Republic of Croatia, *ipso facto* result in a better quality protection of the regional or minority language speakers.

- (81) Though aware of the fact that national minority members are not to be identified with regional or minority language speakers, it is the objective reality that a predominant part of the speakers of a particular regional or minority language are members of that particular national minority, and in that light it needs to be emphasized that there is a general agreement among authorities and local national minority councils and representatives and national minority associations in Croatia that the existing scope of protection of national minority rights, in terms of the legislative framework of protection, is at a satisfactory level.
- (82) Since the existing consensus is an explicit indicator of the quality of existing legislative arrangements, one should conclude that there is no pronounced need for legislative amendments to the system at this moment. Furthermore, the idea of maintaining the existing system with possible introduction of an alternative criterion for determining the territorial scope of the application of the undertakings under Part III of the *Charter*, which would, for instance, envisage a lower percentage threshold or a completely different system of protection of regional or minority languages, is unacceptable at the moment due to the risk of creating a dichotomy of the system of national minority protection and the inaptness of double standards in the implementation of protection of national minority rights.

(ii) *The territories covered by the undertakings under Part III of the Charter can be determined precisely and unequivocally*

- (83) Although in paragraph 57 of the second evaluation report [ECMRL (2005)3] the Committee of Experts mentions the complexity of the mechanism described as the cause of serious implications in respect of the implementation of undertakings under Part III of the *Charter*, the Republic of Croatia holds that the described mechanism provided for an adequate normative framework which takes account of all the particularities of the regulation of extremely complex parameters, such as the territorial distribution of the speakers of a particular minority language, their quantitative presence in particular areas, taking account of the changes in the number of speakers present in an area due to natural migration trends, etc. Introducing an alternative mode of determination of the territorial scope of the application of undertakings under Part III of the *Charter*, whereby the specific territories within the state would be specified in the text of the declaration appended to the instrument of ratification, would unnecessarily exclude territories where the number of speakers of a particular regional or minority language could potentially change in future, which would then complicate the procedure of introducing or cancelling the application of undertakings under Part III of the *Charter* on those territories.
- (84) Although the Committee of Experts states in paragraph 60 of the second evaluation report [ECMRL (2005)3] that the territorial scope of the application of Part III of the *Charter* is undetermined and haphazard, it needs to be emphasized that this is definitely not the case. The Republic of Croatia is a state which has legality and the rule of law embedded in its foundations as the utmost values of the social system. All the state administration bodies, as well as local and regional self-government units, are obliged to abide by and act in compliance with the provisions of the Constitution, the law and the applicable international legal regulations. In accordance with the above, the territorial scope of the application of Part

III of the *Charter* has not been determined arbitrarily, but rather on the basis of precisely defined legal provisions of the positive legislative framework.

(85) Since the Committee of Experts stated in paragraph 57 of the second evaluation report [ECMRL (2005)3] that the mere reference to a county was not sufficient to identify the municipalities which, within that region, are covered by the provisions of Part III of the *Charter*, Table 1 below contains a detailed list of territorial units (municipalities, towns and cities) covered by Part III of the *Charter*.

**Table 5 - List of territorial units in the Republic of Croatia covered by Part III of the Charter**

<b>MINORITY LANGUAGE</b>	<b>TERRITORIAL UNITS (MUNICIPALITIES AND TOWNS/CITIES)</b>	<b>BASIS FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MINORITY LANGUAGE</b>
Czech	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Municipality of Končanica</li> <li>• Town of Daruvar (settlements of Ljudevit Selo, Daruvar, Donji Daruvar, Gornji Daruvar and Doljani)</li> </ul>	46,67%  Statute
Hungarian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Municipality of Bilje</li> <li>• Municipality of Kneževi Vinogradi</li> <li>• Municipality of Ernestinovo (settlement of Laslovo)</li> <li>• Municipality of Petlovac (settlement Novi Bezdani)</li> <li>• Municipality of Tompojevci (settlement of Čakovci)</li> <li>• Municipality of Tordinci (settlement of Korod)</li> </ul>	35,05% 40,90%  Statute  Statute  Statute  Statute
Ruthenian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Municipality of Bogdanovci (settlement of Petrovci)</li> <li>• Municipality of Tompojevci (settlement of Mikluševci)</li> </ul>	Statute  Statute
Slovak	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Municipality of Punitovci</li> <li>• Town of Našice (settlement of Jelisavec)</li> </ul>	35,57%  Statute
Serbian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town of Vrbovsko</li> </ul>	36,23%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town of Vukovar</li> <li>• Municipality of Biskupija</li> <li>• Municipality of Borovo</li> <li>• Municipality of Civljane</li> <li>• Municipality of Dvor</li> <li>• Municipality of Erdut</li> <li>• Municipality of Ervenik</li> <li>• Municipality of Gračac</li> </ul>	Statute 77,29% 86,57% 68,61% 60,87% 53,91% 94,94% 38,82%



- (86) In paragraph 53 of the third evaluation report [ECRML (2008) 1], the Committee of Experts stated that Croatia had stated in its Third Periodical Report that minority languages in Croatia were non-territorial. In continuation, the Committee of Experts was right to emphasize that the above statement was contradictory to the reservation contained in the Croatian instrument of ratification. It was by mistake that minority languages in Croatia were stated as non-territorial in the Third Periodical Report.
- (87) In the view of the Republic of Croatia, the definition of “*territory in which the regional or minority language is used*” from Art. 1b of the *Charter*, which in original English text version reads: “*‘territory in which the regional or minority language is used’ means the geographical area in which the said language is the mode of expression of a number of people justifying the adoption of the various protective and promotional measures provided for in this Charter*“, refers to the territories in which there is traditionally a **sufficient** number of speakers of a particular regional or minority language, justifying the adoption of the protective measures provided for by the *Charter*. Not ‘sufficient’ in the sense that it is made more difficult or impossible for certain speakers to exercise their right to use their minority language, but ‘sufficient’ with regard to the fact that unless there is a certain number of minority language speakers in a particular geographical area (objective reasons), or unless they demonstrate sufficient interest in practising the use of their minority language (subjective reasons), sometimes there are simply no real possibilities for complying with certain undertakings from Part III of the *Charter*. For instance, it is not possible to organise education in a minority language if there are not enough children in a certain area who are speakers of the minority language (objective), or if there is no interest in learning the minority language (subjective). When local and regional self-government units determine in their statutes the geographical areas where a minority language will be in equal use, although the particular national minority does not constitute one third of the local population, the stated criterion of sufficient number of speakers of a particular regional or minority language is taken into consideration, pursuant to the provisions of Art. 1b of the *Charter*.
- (88) The stated understanding of the *Charter* provisions is in full compliance with the interpretation given in paragraph 35 of the Explanatory Report to the Charter, which stipulates that it is “***up to the state to assess, within the spirit of the charter, according to the nature of each of the measures provided for, the appropriate number of speakers of the language required for the adoption of the measure in question***”. In accordance with the stated authority, the Republic of Croatia adopted a view that the adequate number of speakers for adoption of a measure from Part III of the *Charter* is determined according to the existing system provided by the *Constitutional Act*, for which the Consultative Committee of the Council of Europe, when drafting the second Opinion on Croatia concerning the implementation of the *Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities* [ACFC/INF/OP/II(2004)002], expressed the opinion that the legal framework for the protection of the rights of national minority members was, on the whole, satisfactory.
- (iii) *The statutes of local and regional self-government units are subject to supervision by the head of the central state administration body*
- (89) Although the Committee of Experts states in paragraph 59 of the second evaluation report [ECMRL (2005)3] and paragraph 2 of the third evaluation report [ECRML (2008)1; MIN-

LANG (2008)27] that it is, in practice, up to the local and regional self-government units to decide on the territorial application of the *Charter*, the Republic of Croatia emphasizes that Article 24 of the *Act on the Use of the Languages and Scripts of National Minorities* stipulates that, unless a municipality, a town/city or a county fail to regulate the use of the languages and scripts of national minorities by statute, and are obliged to do so under the provisions of the said Act, i.e. if they regulate it contrary to the provisions of the said Act, the head of the central state administration body referred to in Article 23 of the Act shall suspend the execution of the statute, or of particular provisions of the statute, order a direct application of the act and submit to the Government of the Republic of Croatia a proposal for the institution of a procedure for the review of the constitutionality and legality of the statute or another general legal act of the municipality, town/city or county concerned, in accordance with the law.

- (90) We can therefore conclude that the very fact of the existence of a mechanism for controlling the content of the statutes of local and regional self-government units leads to the conclusion that the manner of regulation of the use of national minority languages and scripts and the regulation of the territorial application of the Charter are not up to the local and regional authorities, but rather the head to the central state administration body competent for the supervision over the application of the legislation regulating the state administration system and the local self-government system, pursuant to Article 23 of the *Act on the Use of the Languages and Scripts of National Minorities*. Under the *Act on Amendments to the Act on the Organisation and Scope of the Central State Administration Bodies* (OG 77/09), the above central state administration body is the Ministry of Public Administration, headed by the Minister of Public Administration.
- (91) The Republic of Croatia believes that the described mechanism of the control of the statutes of local and regional self-government units by the Minister of Public Administration is an adequate and appropriate legislative framework for the implementation of the *Act on the Use of the Languages and Scripts of National Minorities*, and consequently also for the undertakings entered into by the Republic of Croatia under the *Charter*.

#### **4.2 Article 8 – Education**

##### *Paragraph 1:*

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

- (92) Education in the languages and scripts of national minorities is an integral part of the overall education system, and the basic educational policy documents refer *inter alia* to this segment of the education system.
- (93) The right of national minority members to education in their language and script is, first of all, guaranteed by the *Constitution of the Republic of Croatia*, the *Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities* (OG 155/02), the *Act on Education in the Languages and*

*Scripts of National Minorities* (OG 51/00 and 56/00), and other primary and secondary legislation, such as the *Primary and Secondary Education Act* (OG 87/08, 86/09), *Act on Primary and Secondary School Textbooks* (OG 36/06, 141/06, 152/08, 86/09) and the *Ordinance on State Matura Exam* (OG 97/08).

- (94) With regard to the question of the Committee of Experts from paragraph 91 [ECRML (2008)1; MIN-LANG (2008)27], it needs to be emphasized that education in the languages and scripts of national minorities is carried out under special programmes and models, approved by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sport. There are three models of the organisation and implementation of teaching in the national minority languages and scripts in the Croatian education system, as follows:
- (95) **MODEL A** – all the teaching is carried out in a national minority language and script, with obligatory learning of the Croatian language in the amount of hours equal to that of the minority language classes. This teaching model is implemented in special schools where the entire teaching is carried out in the language of the members of a particular national minority, or in special sections within schools providing education in the Croatian language.
- (96) **MODEL B** – bilingual teaching is provided in such a way that the natural science subjects are taught in the Croatian language, and the humanistic science subjects in the language of the members of a national minority. This model is implemented in special sections within schools providing education in the Croatian language.
- (97) **MODEL C** – minority language and culture are taught (cultivated) in such a way that the minority language and the culture of a particular national minority are taught in addition to regular classes in the Croatian language, in the amount of two to five hours a week, whereby pupils learn the language and literature of the national minority, geography, history, music and art.
- (98) Special forms of education, such as summer and winter school, correspondence and consultation classes, distance learning classes etc., are organised mainly for those pupils who do not take part in one of the stated models of teaching in the languages and scripts of national minorities. The Ministry of Science, Education and Sport co-finances the organisation and implementation of all the models and forms of teaching in the languages and scripts of national minorities.
- (99) Education in the languages and scripts of national minorities is implemented, under different models, for the Czech, Hungarian, Serbian, Italian, Albanian, Austrian and German, Macedonian, Slovak, Slovene, Ukrainian and Ruthenian national minorities. Although education in the languages and scripts of national minorities is implemented from preschool age to higher education level, for those national minorities who do not initiate education in their language and script, or the institutional form of education in the language and script of a national minority is not organised for objective reasons, the language and script of the national minority are learned and cultivated in the form of summer and winter schools, correspondence and consultation classes etc.
- (100) In 2008, the following national minorities, among others, participated in special forms of education, such as summer and winter schools, correspondence and consultation classes etc., supported by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sport:
- Ukrainian national minority - summer school, 45 pupils;

- Ruthenian and Ukrainian national minorities – summer school, 145 pupils;
  - Slovak national minority – 150 pupils (literary festival “Lidrano”) and 53 pupils in the field trip programme in Slovakia;
  - Czech national minority – summer school, 47 pupils;
  - Hungarian national minority – summer school, 30 pupils;
  - Serbian national minority – summer school in Peroj – 80 pupils, and summer school in Drežnica – 166 pupils; correspondence and consultation classes for 153 pupils;
- (101) The curriculum for regular classes under Models A, B and C is produced by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sport, after it has consulted and obtained the opinions of minority associations, pursuant to the *Act on Education in the Languages and Scripts of National Minorities*. The curricula for summer and winter schools, and correspondence and consultation classes are set by the associations which organise those forms of education.
- (102) Model A is applied in primary and secondary schools for: Italian national minority, Serbian national minority, Hungarian national minority, and Czech national minority in primary school.
- (103) Model B is applied for the Hungarian national minority in primary school, and for the Czech and Serbian national minority in secondary school.
- (104) Model C is applied in primary school for the Czech national minority, Hungarian national minority, Serbian national minority, Slovak national minority, Ukrainian national minority, Ruthenian national minority; in secondary school for the Hungarian and Serbian national minorities.
- (105) The adoption of the pedagogical standards for preschool, primary and secondary education provided for the strengthening of education in the languages and scripts of national minorities, since it became an integral part of the documents on standards for each segment of the education system.
- (106) Although the above standards proscribe the number of pupils in a class section, this does not apply to the **minimum number of pupils** required to form a class section with education in the language and script of a national minority, since the *Act on Education in the Languages and Scripts of National Minorities* does not establish the minimum number of pupils in a class section or group. It is thus possible that there is a group of three pupils in a school, for which a comprehensive programme in the language and script of a national minority is conducted (Model A).
- (107) In case there are technical reasons which make it impossible to continue a minority language programme in a school, as it once happened with two pupils, transport was offered for them to another school which carries out the entire education in the language and script of the national minority (Model A), or the pupils could continue learning the minority language and culture under a different model (Model C).
- (108) With regard to the question of the Committee of Experts from paragraph 66 [ECRML (2008)1; MIN-LANG (2008)27], we emphasize that in 2007 (academic year 2007/2008), the Ministry, pursuant to the *Act on Primary and Secondary School Textbooks*, provided all **textbooks for free** for all the pupils of primary schools and first graders in secondary schools, and in 2008/2009 this was done for the second graders in secondary schools as well.

(109) Pursuant to Article 15 of the Act on Education in the Languages and Scripts of National Minorities (OG 51/00 and 56/00), schools teaching the languages and scripts of national minorities use textbooks from their country of origin, especially for learning the native language, approved by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sport. Imported textbooks were financed by the Ministry or by the country of origin of a particular national minority. For 2008/2009, the Ministry approved the textbooks imported from the countries of origin of the following national minorities:

- 137 textbooks for secondary education in the Italian language;
- 33 textbooks for primary education in the Italian language;
- 47 textbooks for primary education in the Serbian language;
- 7 textbooks for secondary education in the Serbian language;
- 47 textbooks for primary and secondary education in the Hungarian language;
- 12 textbooks for primary education in the Czech language and
- 11 textbooks for secondary education in the Czech language.

(110) Out of the several approved textbooks for education in Croatian, national minority members chose textbooks to translate into their minority language, or they themselves are authors of some textbooks. Resources for the production (from translation to print) of translated textbooks, as well as of original textbooks in a minority language were secured in the State Budget for the purposes of education in the languages and scripts of national minorities, so that for 2008/2009 resources were allocated for:

- 30 textbooks for education in the Czech language, 3 of them original textbooks;
- 24 textbooks for education in Hungarian
- 97 textbooks for education in Serbian;
- 33 textbooks for education in Italian, 8 of them original textbooks;
- 4 original textbooks for education in Slovak.

(111) Total resources from the State Budget spent on the above textbooks amounted to 9,630,090.54 HRK in 2007, and 7,136,750.74 HRK in 2008.

(112) With regard to the question of the Committee of Experts from paragraph 70 [ECRML (2008)1; MIN-LANG (2008)27], we emphasize that **7 expert advisors** were recruited for the needs of education in the languages and scripts of national minorities, as follows: 2 full-time expert advisors for the Italian national minority (one for the overall development of the teaching programme, and the other for Italian language classes), 2 advisors for the Serbian national minority, one of them full-time, and the other part-time, 1 part-time advisor for the Czech national minority, 1 part-time advisor for the Hungarian national minority and 1 part-time advisor for the Slovak national minority. The Education Agency approved another part-time expert advisor position for the Hungarian national minority, but the Hungarian national minority did not avail itself of that possibility. No expert advisors were appointed for the Ruthenian and Ukrainian national minorities. Some of the candidates for expert advisors proposed by the national minorities did not meet the criteria required for an expert advisor, or did not represent a rational choice.

(113) In current conditions, in terms of the number of pupils taking part in education in the language and script of a national minority, the school authorities consider the number and the working hours of expert advisors sufficient. As regards the Ruthenian national minority with 72 pupils, there is a chance of hiring a teacher living in the vicinity of the village where

classes are to be held, for a few hours a week, but there is no such possibility for Ukrainian at the moment, as there are only 11 pupils learning Ukrainian. Should the efforts of the Ukrainian national minority to revive the learning of Ukrainian be successful and the number of pupils learning Ukrainian increase, the school authorities will consider recruiting an advisor for Ukrainian.

(114) With regard to the question of the Committee of Experts from paragraph 121 [ECRML (2008)1; MIN-LANG (2008)27], we state that the professional development of preschool and school teachers and expert advisors is within the scope of the Education Agency. In 2006, 15 professional meetings were organised, 3 for education in Czech, 2 for education in Hungarian, 3 for education in Slovak, 3 for education in Serbian and 6 for education in Italian. In 2007, 25 professional meetings for professional development took place, 11 of them for the needs of education in Serbian, 4 for education in Hungarian, 4 for education in Italian, 5 for education in Czech and 1 for education in Slovak. In 2008, 31 professional meetings for professional development in minority languages were held, as follows:

- 10 professional development seminars for the Italian national minority, for 314 participants, in Rijeka, Vodnjan, Poreč, Novigrad and in Italy, in Trieste, Bolzano and Venice;
- 8 professional development seminars for the Czech national minority, for 226 participants, in Daruvar, Opatija, Zagreb, Osijek, and in the Czech Republic, in Prague and Lednice;
- 7 seminars for the Serbian national minority, for 200 participants, in Opatija, Zagreb, Gvozd and Osijek;
- 4 seminars for the Hungarian national minority, for 152 participants, in Osijek;
- 2 seminars for the Slovak national minority.

(115) In 2008, for the purpose of subsequent improvement in curricula in the languages and scripts of national minorities, joint seminars were organised at the state level in Opatija, for the teachers of the Czech, Hungarian, Serbian, Italian and Slovak national minority, for a total of 282 participants. Another seminar was held in Zagreb, for 31 teachers of the Czech, Hungarian, Ruthenian, Slovak, Serbian, Italian and other national minorities. The Ministry also co-finances study leaves for teachers belonging to national minorities, for the purpose of development in their countries of origin for the needs of teaching in the languages and scripts of the national minorities.

(116) With regard to the question of the Committee of Experts from paragraph 72 [ECRML (2008)1; MIN-LANG (2008)27], the Republic of Croatia took **proactive measures** in the past period, and with the establishment of a National Minorities Directorate within the Ministry of Science, Education and Sport in 2008, the national minorities gained an office at the state level which is competent for all the issues and problems regarding education in the languages and scripts of national minorities. On the other hand, the Directorate performs a very important role regarding the integration of the issues of national minority education in the overall educational policy. The responsiveness of the National Minorities Directorate towards national minority associations and their unions, when it comes to setting the priorities in the enhancement of individual segments in the education in the languages and scripts of national minorities. Some national minority communities which did not have a proactive stance towards education in their minority language, were encouraged to more effective action in promoting the learning of the minority language and culture.

- (117) For that purpose, for 2009/2010, all the state offices in the counties which are competent for approving class sections, and schools will receive a brochure intended for pupils and parents concerning the survey among pupils for the purpose of selecting a learning model in areas where members of a particular national minority live.
- (118) With regard to the issue of **preschool education**, according to the indicators for kindergartens and other legal persons carrying out programmes of preschool education, and according to the data of the services for social activities in the state administration offices in the counties, a total of 1,684 children belonging to national minorities took part in preschool education in the languages and scripts of national minorities in 2008, which is an increase in relation to 2007, when there were 1,539, and in relation to 2006, when there were 1,532 children.

**Table 6 - Preschool education**

Minorities	2006.				2007.				2008.			
	No. of children	No. of KG	No. of groups	No. of teachers	No. of children	No. of KG	No. of groups	No. of teachers	No. of children	No. of KG	No. of groups	No. of teachers
Hungarian	198	8	9	12	168	7	8	12	160	4	8	12
Czech	139	2	5	11	139	2	5	11	142	2	6	12
Serbian	350	4	15	27	350	4	15	27	467	8	19	34
Italian	845	18	39	80	845	18	39	80	915	12	58	98
TOTAL	1.532	32	68	130	1.539	32	68	136	1.684	26	91	156

- (119) With regard to the question of the Committee of Experts from paragraph 79 [ECRML (2008)1; MIN-LANG (2008)27], it needs to be emphasized that there is a decrease in the number of children of the Hungarian national minority, and an increase in the number of children of the Serbian and Italian national minorities, whereas the number of children of the Czech national minority remains almost constant, as shown in Table 1.
- (120) With regard to the question of the Committee of Experts from paragraph 80 [ECRML (2008)1; MIN-LANG (2008)27], we emphasize that there was no interest for preschool education programmes for the Slovak national minority, despite the proposal and efforts of the Union of Slovaks, and in spite of the fact that the number of pupils learning the Slovak language and culture in primary school has been rising. There was a proposal in the academic year 2006/2007 to learn the Slovak language and culture in secondary school as well, in particular in the secondary school in Ilok, the teaching staff were secured, and there were around 30 pupils of the Slovak national minority in that school. However, there was no interest among the pupils, despite the proposal made by the school and the efforts of the Union of Slovaks to motivate the pupils. This initiative is still open and is proposed for the years 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 as well, for 2009/2010 also in Našice for those pupils who are about to finish primary school in Našice, Markovac and Jelisavac and enrol into the secondary school in Našice. The Union of Slovaks has been active in the town and county national minority council, advocating that secondary school pupils be motivated to enter the programme of learning the Slovak language and culture under Model C. The Union of Slovaks has invested efforts in offering Slovak courses for adults as well, but there was no interest either.

- (121) When it comes to learning the Ukrainian language and culture, the situation is, on the whole, not favourable. At the moment, in 2008/2009, there are altogether 11 pupils learning the Ukrainian language and culture, 8 of them in Petrovci and 3 in Lipovljani. In 2007, however, there was a significant reorganisation in the representative bodies of the Ukrainian community, a Coordination of the Ukrainian national minority in the Republic of Croatia was elected, with the seat in Zagreb, and the reconstruction of the building of the Ukrainian community in Vukovar, as well as the recruitment of the professional secretary of the community are underway. The reorganised Ukrainian national minority, in partnership with the school authorities, has been investing efforts in reviving the learning of the Ukrainian language and culture, in primary school in particular, which includes, apart from increasing the number of pupils in Petrovci and Lipovljani, the launch of the initiative for learning the Ukrainian language and culture in Slavonski Brod, Kaniža and Zagreb, as well. For preschool playrooms in Ukrainian, the initiative will first be launched in Zagreb, in the facilities to be allocated to the Ukrainian national minority by the City of Zagreb. In the summer months of 2009, the Coordination of the Ukrainian national minority will conduct a survey in the Ukrainian community and strive to promote the learning of the Ukrainian language and culture, in order to increase the number of pupils, at first in primary school, and afterwards in secondary school as well, provided there are pupils who continue their education and are interested in learning Ukrainian. With the increase in the number of pupils to at least 50, at the proposal of the Ukrainian community and in agreement with the Ministry of Science, Education and Sport, it will be possible to hire an advisor for the Ukrainian language and culture with appropriate working hours. There is currently no such possibility, as there are 11 pupils learning Ukrainian. The Ukrainian national minority will also launch an initiative for adult courses in Ukrainian. We hope that the project of the revival of Ukrainian language learning, carried out by the reorganised and strengthened Coordination of the Ukrainian national minority, will result, in the coming period, in some positive steps towards increasing the number of pupils of the Ukrainian language and culture.
- (122) With regard to the question of the Committee of Experts from paragraph 76 [ECRML (2008)1; MIN-LANG (2008)27], Ruthenian language and culture classes are organised in the branch schools in Petrovci and Mikluševci, where a total of 72 pupils participate in the programme of learning the Ruthenian language and culture, 46 of them in Petrovci and 26 in Mikluševci. As regards preschool education in Ruthenian, Petrovci and Mikluševci are small villages without a kindergarten, and the building where a kindergarten in Mikluševci used to be, was demolished during the war and was not reconstructed. In Petrovci, preparations are underway for the reconstruction of a building where a kindergarten should be, the concept design dating from 2007. A few years ago, the Ruthenian National Minority Council in Vukovar conducted a survey among the members of the Ruthenian national minority, and there was no interest in initiating education in Ruthenian either in preschool, or in primary school. The teaching staff is available, so that the proposal for Ruthenian was guaranteed during the survey, but no interest was expressed. Cooperation with Ruthenians in Vojvodina was established through the Union of Ruthenians, and lecturers from Vojvodina participate in the seminar every year. No offer has been organised for adult courses in Ruthenian, since Ruthenian national minority members in the villages of Petrovci and Mikluševci had stated that adult Ruthenians speak the language, and other people in the villages understand it and participate in joint activities.
- (123) With regard to the question of the Committee of Experts from paragraphs 106 and 110 [ECRML (2008)1; MIN-LANG (2008)27], the Croatian authorities have not been informed of negotiations between the representatives of Ruthenian speakers with the University of

Zagreb about the establishment of a Ruthenian Department. It needs to be stressed that there is no staff which would make the establishment of the Ruthenian Department possible. There is one teacher with a university degree in the Ruthenian language from Vojvodina, while other teachers are Ruthenian speakers, but have no formal qualification in the field. Moreover, the availability of any experts for Ruthenian for recruitment in the future is doubtful, given the small number of pupils learning Ruthenian in primary school and the lack of interest in learning Ruthenian in secondary school. Although the school authorities are willing to support the implementation of realistic initiatives, it is necessary for the Ruthenian community itself to be committed to promoting the Ruthenian language, as well as to propose concrete actions concerning Ruthenian language learning, which is not the case at the present.

(124) With regard to the question of the Committee of Experts from paragraph 115 [ECRML (2008)1; MIN-LANG (2008)27], a reply is provided in paragraph (41) of the report.

(125) As regards the issue of **primary education**, education in the languages and scripts of national minority members is implemented under three educational models (Model A, B, C). As shown in Table 2, there has been a decline in the number of pupils of the Hungarian national minority in the A programme, while the number is relatively stable in the B and C programmes. The number of pupils of the Czech national minority has slightly increased in the A programme, but fallen in the C programme. A decrease is also visible in the number of pupils of the Italian national minority, who generally do not have Models B and C. The number of pupils of the Serbian national minority under Models A and C has been increasing. There has been a constant rise in the number of pupils of the Slovak national minority in primary school, and other elements of the system were reported on earlier in this report.

(126) An detailed elaboration of the situation concerning education of the Ruthenian and Ukrainian national minorities was also given earlier in the report.

**Table 7 - Primary education**

**Model A**

Minorities	2006.				2007.				2008.			
	No. of stud.	No. of schools	No. of class sections	No. of teachers	No. of stud.	No. of schools	No. of class sections	No. of teachers	No. of stud.	No. of schools	No. of class sections	No. of teachers
Czechs	311	3	18	34	314	3	18	36	328	3	18	35
Hungarian	276	5	36	71	256	5	32	71	233	5	30	61
Serbian	2.301	18	168	369	2.350	18	160	369	2.367	17	168	283
Italian	1.523	17	98	263	1.505	17	101	282	1.489	17	99	279
TOTAL	4.411	43	320	737	4.425	43	311	758	4.417	43	315	658

**Model B**

Minorities	2006.				2007.				2008.			
	No. of stud.	No. of schools	No. of class sections	No. of teachers	No. of stud.	No. of schools	No. of class sections	No. of teachers	No. of stud.	No. of schools	No. of class sections	No. of teachers
Hungarian	13	1	1	2	14	1	2	3	14	1	1	2
TOTAL	13	1	1	2	14	1	2	3	14	1	1	2

Model C (although Model C covers the speakers of other national minorities in Croatia as well, the data given below refer to speakers of those minority languages in Croatia which are covered by Part III of the *Charter*)

Minorities	2006.				2007.				2008.			
	No. of stud.	No. of schools	No. of groups	No. of teachers	No. of stud.	No. of schools	No. of groups	No. of teachers	No. of stud.	No. of schools	No. of groups	No. of teachers
Czech	431	13	42	11	452	19	52	17	404	19	49	13
Hungarian	759	15	82	11	729	15	87	11	753	15	96	11
Ruthenian	42	1	1	1	48	1	6	2	72	2	9	3
Slovak	505	7	39	6	510	10	39	6	526	11	38	7
Serbian	461	21	38	29	430	22	57	38	496	14	45	25
Ukrainian	28	1	1	1	28	2	2	2	11	2	3	2
TOTAL	2.317	61	212	68	2.289	72	250	85	2.387	71	258	72

(127) The total number of national minority members in primary education in the languages and scripts of national minorities, under all the educational models, varies from 6,741 pupils in 2006, 6,728 pupils in 2007, to 6,818 pupils in 2008, i.e. the number is stable.

(128) As regards **secondary education** in the languages and scripts of national minorities, there is a visible decline in the number of pupils taking part in classes in Italian and Hungarian. A decline in the number of pupils has been observed in Model A in Serbian, but a programme under Model B was started for that reason in 2008, i.e. the bilingual programme, as well as a programme under Model C, so that, on the whole, the number of pupils in the Serbian language and culture programme has increased.

(129) With regard to the question of the Committee of Experts from paragraphs 100 and 103 [ECRML (2008)1; MIN-LANG (2008)27], the explanation was given earlier in this report for the Slovak, Ruthenian and Ukrainian national minorities. Despite the efforts by the Slovak and partly also the Ruthenian national minorities, and a guaranteed offer, there was no interest on the part of national minority members, and as for the Ukrainian national minority, a revitalisation project for learning the Ukrainian language and culture is underway, initiated by the reorganised Ukrainian community.

**Table 8 - Secondary education**

Model A

Minorities	2006.				2007.				2008.			
	No. of stud.	No. of schools	No. of class sections	No. of teachers	No. of stud.	No. of schools	No. of class sections	No. of teachers	No. of stud.	No. of schools	No. of class sections	No. of teachers
Hungarian	71	1	10	26	67	1	10	36	65	1	11	20
Serbian	940	8	66	183	923	8	66	203	874	8	66	176
Italian	775	4	66,5	137	717	4	63,5	165	644	4	59,5	160
TOTAL	1.786	13	142,5	346	1.707	13	139,5	404	1.583	13	136,5	356

### Model B

Minorities	2006.				2007.				2008.			
	No. of stud.	No. of schools	No. of class sections	No. of teachers	No. of stud.	No. of schools	No. of class sections	No. of teachers	No. of stud.	No. of schools	No. of class sections	No. of teachers
Czech	50	1	4	10	52	1	4	10	46	1	4	10
Serbian	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	1	12	34
TOTAL	50	1	4	10	52	1	4	10	146	2	16	44

### Model C

Minorities	2006.				2007.				2008.			
	No. of stud.	No. of schools	No. of groups	No. of teachers	No. of stud.	No. of schools	No. of groups	No. of teachers	No. of stud.	No. of schools	No. of groups	No. of teachers
Hungarian	7	1	1	1	7	1	1	1	-	-	-	
Serbian	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	2	9	6
TOTAL	7	1	1	1	7	1	1	1	30	2	9	6

- (130) With regard to the question of the Committee of Experts from paragraph 97 [ECRML (2008)1; MIN-LANG (2008)27] concerning the establishment of a dormitory in Osijek for secondary school pupils of the Hungarian national minority, the explanation is provided below. Within the overall educational policy which provides incentive measures to make secondary education available and possible for all the pupils in Croatia, and consequently also for pupils learning in the languages and scripts of national minorities, we state that all the pupils of the Hungarian national minority, like other students, are provided free transport or residential accommodation if free transport is not an optimal solution. We allow ourselves to mention that, as seen from the data, there has been an overall decline in the number of students at all the levels when it comes to education of the Hungarian national minority members.
- (131) As regards **higher education**, it should be noted that higher education in the native Italian language is organised in Pula, at the Juraj Dobrila University, Teacher Training Department, where an Integrated Undergraduate and Graduate Teacher Training Programme in the duration of 5 years (300 ECTS credits) and an Undergraduate Professional Preschool Education Programme in the duration of 3 years (180 ECTS credits) are taught in Croatian and Italian.
- (132) In 2007, 30 students attended the Preschool Education Programme (14) and Teacher Training Programme (16) in Italian, and in 2008/2009, there were 33 students (21 in Preschool Education Studies, 8 in Teacher Training, while 4 study under the system preceding Bologna).
- (133) In 2008/2009, there are 90 students at the Hungarology Department at the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Zagreb (the teaching staff comprises 3 tenured professors, 2 guest professors and 2 external associates), 20 students at the Department for Hungarian Language and Literature at the J. J. Strossmayer University in Osijek (the staff comprises 1 senior assistant and 5 external associates), and 100 students at the Foreign Language Department at the same university (1 lecturer).

- (134) The Teacher Training Academy in Zagreb used to have organised Teacher Training Studies with an Intensified Serbian Language Programme until the academic year 2005/2006, but since 2006/2007 the programme has not been organised due to the lack of interest.
- (135) At the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Zagreb there is also an two-subject undergraduate programme in Czech language and literature (180 ECTS credits), two-subject undergraduate programme in Slovak language and literature (180 ECTS credits), and two-subject undergraduate programme in Ukrainian language and literature (180 ECTS credits).

#### **4.3 Article 9 – Judicial authorities**

*Paragraph 1:*

*subparagraph a) item ii, iv*

*subparagraph b) item ii, iii*

*subparagraph c) item ii, iii*

*subparagraph d)*

- (136) In compliance with Article 9 of the *Charter* and Article 12 of the *Act on the Use of the Languages and Scripts of National Minorities*, the Ministry of Justice committed the judicial authorities in the towns/cities where the obligatory use of a regional or minority language is laid down in the town/city statute, to put up bilingual name plates on the buildings of the judicial authorities, to facilitate the unrestricted use of the minority language, and to enable the use of the language of national minority members in judicial proceedings without a charge.
- (137) The Ministry of Justice regularly collects data on judicial authorities which conduct proceedings in the languages of national minorities. Although members of all the national minorities in Croatia who are protected by the Charter are entitled to use their regional or minority language before judicial authorities, the data collected show that only in the County of Istria were the proceedings conducted in Italian, as follows (data for the first quarter of 2009):
- Misdemeanour Court in Rovinj – 1 misdemeanour proceeding conducted in Italian (one party),
  - Misdemeanour Court in Pula – 32 parties in misdemeanour proceedings waived the right to use the Italian language and script,
  - Misdemeanour Court in Umag – 1 misdemeanour proceeding was conducted in Italian, while in others 6 parties waived their right to use a minority language and script,
  - Municipal Court in Rovinj – there were no proceedings conducted or which could have been conducted in Italian
  - Municipal Court in Buje – 1 civil proceeding was conducted in Italian, and in a criminal proceeding 2 parties waived the right to use Italian
  - Municipal Court in Pula – there were no proceedings conducted or which could have been conducted in Italian
- (138) On the territory of the County of Istria, bilingual name plates are, apart from the courts, also used by state attorney offices, with national minority members being entitled to use their minority language. Public notaries on the territory of the County of Istria produce notarial deeds in Italian if the parties request that probate proceedings be conducted in Italian, or

when issuing a Life Certificate for the purpose of exercising the right to pension etc. Public notaries use bilingual office name plates, stamps and seals, in Croatian and Italian.

- (139) On the territory of other counties and within the scope of competences of county courts, according to the data delivered by the judicial authorities to the Ministry of Justice, there were no requests of national minority members to use the language of a national minority in judicial proceedings. On the territory of other counties, judicial authorities and public notaries do not use bilingual name plates, letterheads, stamps and seals, sine there were no such requests by national minority members.
- (140) With regard to the question of the Committee of Experts from paragraph 125 [ECRML (2008)1; MIN-LANG (2008)27], we emphasize that in June 2009 the Ministry of Justice, for the purpose of further promotion of the right of national minority members to use their minority language and script, organised the implementation of the measure 1.2 from the *Action Plan for the Implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities* – special information brochures and other promotion materials in the state administration bodies of the first instance and judicial bodies obliged to implement the Act on the Use of the Languages and Scripts of National Minorities in the Republic of Croatia, designed to inform the public how to exercise their right to use minority languages in the proceedings conducted before these bodies. In the implementation of the measure, the best concept design has been chosen for the poster which will have been distributed to all courts obliged to use national minority languages under the provisions of the *Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities* by the end of 2009.
- (141) End of 2009 is also the planned deadline for the implementation of the measure 1.6 from the Action Plan, which envisages consultations with the presidents of courts on the implementation of the *Act on the Use of the Languages and Scripts of National Minorities*.

#### **4.4 Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services**

*Paragraph 1:*

*subparagraph a) item iii, 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*

- (142) With regard to the question of the Committee of Experts from paragraphs 131 and 177 [ECRML (2008)1; MIN-LANG (2008)27], Croatia emphasizes that, with a view to improving and promoting the official use of the languages and scripts of national minorities in proceedings before state administration bodies of the first instance and in the work of legal

persons vested with public powers, the *Action Plan for the Implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities* of 26 June 2008 envisages the implementation of the following measures:

- improvement of the system of monitoring and analysis of the status concerning official and public use of national minority languages and scripts in representative and executive bodies of local self-government, in the proceedings before state administration bodies of the first instance and legal persons vested with public powers, holders of the measure being the Ministry of Public Administration and state administration bodies the scope of which includes functions performed by legal persons vested with public powers;
- development of instructions for ensuring an effective implementation of the Act on the Use of the Languages and Scripts of National Minorities in the Republic of Croatia in the work of legal persons vested with public powers, and implementation of administrative supervision, holders of the measure being the central state administration bodies the scope of which includes functions performed by some legal persons vested with public powers, and
- special information brochures and other promotion materials in the state administration bodies of the first instance and judicial bodies obliged to implement the Act on the Use of the Languages and Scripts of National Minorities in the Republic of Croatia, designed to inform the public how to exercise their right to use minority languages in the proceedings conducted before these bodies, holders of the measure being the Ministry of the Interior and other state administration bodies within their scope.

(143) With regard to the question of the Committee of Experts from paragraph 135 [ECRML (2008)1; MIN-LANG (2008)27], the Republic of Croatia emphasizes that the *Action Plan for the Implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities* envisages the organisation of 4 regional seminars on the right of national minority members to equal official use of their language and script with a view to improving the exercise of rights, motivating and encouraging members of national minorities to exercise their rights. The above seminars were, however, not held during 2008 and 2009, but are planned for 2010.

(144) With regard to the question of the Committee of Experts from paragraph 141 [ECRML (2008)1; MIN-LANG (2008)27], the Republic of Croatia emphasizes that informing the state administration and the public at large is envisaged in the seminars on the right of national minority members to equal official use of their language and script with a view to improving the exercise of rights, motivating and encouraging members of national minorities to exercise their rights.

(145) With regard to the question of the Committee of Experts from paragraph 148 [ECRML (2008)1; MIN-LANG (2008)27], Section 4.4.2 below provides a detailed overview of the areas where minority languages are protected by local or regional authorities under the *Charter*.

(146) With regard to the question of the Committee of Experts from paragraph 155 [ECRML (2008)1; MIN-LANG (2008)27], with a view to creating an environment in which the speakers of minority languages are encouraged to use those languages in communication with the bodies of local and regional self-government units, the Republic of Croatia envisaged the following measures in the *Action Plan for the Implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities*:

- implementation of the supervision over the legality of the work and legal acts of local and regional bodies in the self-government units which are obliged, under the Constitutional Act, to ensure the right for national minorities to use a minority language and script;
- implementation of the supervision over the statutes of local and regional self-government units which are obliged, under the Constitutional Act, to ensure the right for national minorities to use a minority language and script;
- improvement of the system of monitoring and analysis of the status concerning official and public use of national minority languages and scripts in representative and executive bodies of local self-government;
- training of local and regional government members, and local civil servants on the official and public use of languages and scripts of national minorities at the level of local self-government units;
- organisation of 4 regional seminars on the right of national minority members to equal official use of their language and script with a view to improving the exercise of rights, motivating and encouraging members of national minorities to exercise their rights.

The above measures were, however, not implemented during 2008 and 2009, but their implementation is planned for 2010.

#### ***4.4.1 Overview of the status concerning the requests by parties in the state administration offices in the counties to exercise the right to equal official use of a national minority language and script***

##### *4.4.1.1 State Administration Office in the County of Sisak-Moslavina*

(147) In the work of the State Administration Office in the County of Sisak-Moslavina, as a first-instance body, and in the branch offices in the Municipalities of Dvor and Gvozd, where members of the Serbian national minority constitute a majority, there were no requests from citizens to conduct proceedings in the minority language and script, to issue bilingual public documents, print bilingual forms for official purposes, or to produce bilingual stamps and seals, name plates and letterheads.

##### *4.4.1.2 State Administration Office in the County of Karlovac*

(148) The State Administration Office in the County of Karlovac respects the rights of national minority members to equal use of their language and script in the proceedings before first-instance state administration bodies and in the branch offices in Vojnić and Ogulin, where both the Croatian language and Latin script, and the language and script of the national minority are in official use.

(149) However, in the work of the State Administration Office and its branch offices there were no requests from citizens for the bilingual or multilingual issue of public documents or forms used for official purposes, or the requests to produce stamps and seals, name plates and letterheads with bilingual or multilingual text of equal letter size.

#### *4.4.1.3 State Administration Office in the County of Bjelovar-Bilogora*

- (150) The State Administration Office in the County of Bjelovar-Bilogora reported that no minority language was in official use on the territory of the Office, and that the right to equal official use of minority languages and scripts in the proceedings before first-instance state administration bodies was not exercised. The Office does not issue public documents, or print forms used for official purposes, and does not have the text of stamps and seals, name plates and letterheads written in the language and script of national minorities.

#### *4.4.1.4 State Administration Office in the County of Primorje-Gorski Kotar*

- (151) The State Administration Office in the County of Primorje-Gorski Kotar, as a first-instance body, does not issue public documents, or print forms used for official purposes, and does not have the text of stamps and seals, name plates and letterheads written in the language and script of national minorities. The Office conducted no proceedings in the languages and scripts of national minorities.

#### *4.4.1.5 State Administration Office in the County of Lika-Senj*

- (152) The State Administration Office in the County of Lika-Senj has its branch offices in the Municipalities of Donji Lapac and Udbina, where both the Croatian language and Latin script, and the language and script of the Serbian national minority are in official use. In the branch offices in the municipalities above there are no bilingual stamps and seals, name plates or letterheads.
- (153) In administrative proceedings in the above municipalities, in which members of the Serbian national minority took part, there were no requests for the bilingual issue of documents and forms, although parties are regularly instructed on their rights from Article 12 of the *Act on the Use of the Languages and Scripts of National Minorities*. In 2008, no parties who were members of national minorities delivered a submission in their language and script, which would have indicated that they wanted to use that language and script in the proceedings, or requested to use that language and script.

#### *4.4.1.6 State Administration Office in the County of Zadar*

- (154) On the territory of the State Administration Office in the County of Zadar, equal official use of the language and script of national minorities was not introduced, since minority members have expressed no interest so far. No bilingual public documents and forms were issued, nor are there any bilingual stamps and seals, name plates and letterheads.

#### *4.4.1.7 State Administration Office in the County of Osijek-Baranja*

- (155) Under the provisions of the Act on the Use of the Languages and Scripts of National Minorities, first-instance state administration bodies and their offices and branch offices in municipalities, towns/cities and counties where, in addition to the Croatian language and Latin script, a national minority language and script are in official use, issue public

documents and print forms used for official purposes in the Croatian language and Latin script, and, at the request of citizens, in bilingual or multilingual form.

- (156) The staff of the State Administration Office in the County of Osijek-Baranja, a first-instance state administration body, includes members of the Serbian and Hungarian national minorities. The organisation of the receiving of parties, submissions in the languages of the national minorities, and communication with parties of other ethnicities are entrusted to the members of the Serbian or Hungarian national minority whose mother tongue is Serbian or Hungarian.
- (157) During 2007, there were no written requests in the languages of the national minorities, and all clients had the possibility to communicate in their mother tongue. The State Administration Office in the County of Osijek-Baranja does not issue decisions or certificates on bilingual forms.

#### *4.4.1.8 State Administration Office in the County of Šibenik-Knin*

- (158) The State Administration Office in the County of Šibenik-Knin has its branch offices in Drniš, Knin and Vodice. Since national minority members in those local self-government units do not constitute the majority of the total population, and only the Croatian language and Latin script are in official use, administrative proceedings in the first instance are conducted in the Croatian language and Latin script. So far there have been no requests by parties for the use of the script of a national minority.

#### *4.4.1.9 State Administration Office in the County of Vukovar-Syrmia*

- (159) The State Administration Office in the County of Vukovar-Syrmia has its branch offices in Vinkovci, Županja and Ilok. Since national minority members in those local self-government units do not constitute the majority of the total population, and only the Croatian language and Latin script are in official use, administrative proceedings in the first instance are conducted in the Croatian language and Latin script.
- (160) Registry offices in the municipalities of Markušica and Trpinja, where equal official use of the Croatian and Serbian languages and scripts is laid down in the statutes, no requests were received from citizens for the issue of bilingual public documents or the printing of bilingual forms.

#### *4.4.1.10 State Administration Office in the County of Istria*

- (161) In 2008, no proceedings were conducted in a minority language before the State Administration Office in the County of Istria – Office seat in Pula. Bilingual excerpts from the population registry and other legal acts are issued at the request of a party. Stamps, seals and name plates are bilingual. Letterheads are not bilingual.
- (162) In the Rovinj branch of the State Administration Office no proceedings were conducted in a minority language and script. Most of the staff speak Italian so that oral communication is at a very high level, but parties do not seek written translations of legal acts. There is some

interest in the issue of bilingual/multilingual public documents and printing of forms used for official purposes, and every request is granted. Stamps, seals and name plates are bilingual. Letterheads are bilingual, with the exception of programmatic acts – decisions.

- (163) In the Poreč branch of the State Administration Office no proceedings were conducted in a minority language and script. There was no interest in the issue of bilingual/multilingual public documents and printing of forms used for official purposes.. Stamps, seals and name plates are bilingual. Letterheads are not bilingual.
- (164) In the Buje branch of the State Administration Office no proceedings were conducted in a minority language and script. Italian is used in communication with parties if a party addresses the body in Italian. Citizens are issued bilingual public documents, in particular all excerpts from the population registry and the citizenship register. Stamps, seals and name plates are bilingual. Letterheads are not bilingual.
- (165) In the Umag branch of the State Administration Office no proceedings were conducted in a minority language and script. There was no interest in the issue of bilingual/multilingual public documents and printing of forms used for official purposes. Stamps, seals and name plates are bilingual. Letterheads are not bilingual.

#### ***4.4.2 Minority language use in local and regional self-government units***

##### *4.4.2.1 Overview of municipalities and towns/cities where members of a national minority account for a minimum of one third of the population*

- (166) Below is an overview by counties of municipalities and towns/cities where members of a particular national minority account for at least a third of the population, and which were obliged to regulate equal official use of the minority language and script in their statutes.

##### **4.4.2.1.1 County of Sisak-Moslavina**

#### **Municipality of Dvor**

- (167) Members of the Serbian national minority in the Municipality of Dvor account for 60.87% of the total population of the self-government unit, and equal official use of the Serbian language and Cyrillic script is regulated by the Municipal Statute.
- (168) In the Municipal Council and Government, the Croatian language and Latin script are used. Stamps and seals are inscribed in the Croatian language and Latin script. Name plates of the Municipality of Dvor, Municipal Council and Municipal Government are inscribed in both the Croatian language and Latin script, and Serbian language and Cyrillic script. Letterheads are written in the Croatian language and Latin script. Materials for the meetings of the Council and Government, minutes, conclusions and official notices are written in the Croatian language and Latin script. Public documents and forms are written in the Croatian language and Latin script. Traffic signs and other written road markings, street names and square names, names of places and geographic localities are written in the Croatian language and Latin script.

(169) Members of the Serbian national minority have expressed no interest in using the Serbian language and Cyrillic script in the proceedings before administrative bodies of the municipality.

#### **Municipality of Gvozd**

(170) Members of the Serbian national minority in the Municipality of Gvozd account for 53.03% of the total population of the self-government unit, and equal official use of the Serbian language and Cyrillic script, as the language and script of the Serbian national minority, on the entire territory of the Municipality of Gvozd is regulated by the Municipal Statute.

(171) Work of the Municipal Council and Municipal Government is conducted in the Croatian language and Latin script. Name plates on the building of the Municipality of Gvozd are bilingual. Seals of the municipal bodies have not been inscribed bilingually. There is no delivery of bilingual materials. Public documents and forms used for official purposes are not issued in bilingual form. Traffic signs, street names and square names, names of places and geographic localities have not been written in bilingual form.

(172) No interest has been expressed so far in using the minority language and script before administrative bodies of the municipality.

#### **4.4.2.1.2 County of Karlovac**

#### **Municipality of Krnjak**

(173) Members of the Serbian national minority in the Municipality of Krnjak account for 61.55% of the total population of the self-government unit, and equal official use of the Serbian language and Cyrillic script is regulated by the Municipal Statute. Name plates of the Municipal Council and Municipal Government are bilingual.

#### **Municipality of Vojnić**

(174) Members of the Serbian national minority in the Municipality of Vojnić account for 49.99% of the total population of the self-government unit, and equal official use of the Serbian language and Cyrillic script is regulated by the Municipal Statute. Name plates are inscribed in both Croatian and Serbian, and in other fields bilingualism is not implemented due to the lack of financial resources.

#### **Municipality of Plaški**

(175) Although members of the Serbian national minority in the Municipality of Plaški account for 45,99% of the total population of the self-government unit, equal official use of the Serbian language and Cyrillic script is not regulated by the Municipal Statute.

#### 4.4.2.1.3 County of Bjelovar-Bilogora

##### **Municipality of Končanica**

- (176) Members of the Czech national minority in the Municipality of Končanica account for 46.67% of the total population of the self-government unit, and equal official use of the Czech language and script is regulated by the Municipal Statute.
- (177) Work of the municipal bodies is conducted in the Croatian language and Latin script, since there have been no requests for the delivery of materials for meetings, minutes or other materials in the Czech language, or for the conduct of proceedings in Czech. Seals in the Croatian language and Latin script are used. The name plates of the bodies in the Municipality building are bilingual. Names of localities are bilingual where this is regulated by the Statute.

#### 4.4.2.1.4 County of Primorje-Gorski Kotar

##### **Town of Vrbovsko**

- (178) Although members of the Serbian national minority in the Municipality of Vrbovsko account for 36.23% of the total population of the self-government unit, and equal official use of the Serbian language and Cyrillic script is not regulated by the Municipal Statute.

#### 4.4.2.1.5 County of Lika-Senj

##### **Municipality of Donji Lapac**

- (179) Members of the Serbian national minority in the Municipality of Donji Lapac account for 73,56% of the total population of the self-government unit. The Municipal Council adopted a new Statute on 3 April 2009, which regulates equal official use of the language and script used by members of the Serbian national minority, and it applies to the names of places and localities, streets and squares, name plates on municipal and other public facilities and institutions, as well as everyday use in the public life of legal persons and individuals, pursuant to the special *Act on the Use of the Languages and Scripts of National Minorities*.

##### **Municipality of Udbina**

- (180) Although members of the Serbian national minority in the Municipality of Udbina account for 43.36% of the total population of the self-government unit, equal official use of the Serbian language and Cyrillic script is not regulated by the Municipal Statute.

##### **Municipality of Vrhovine**

- (181) Members of the Serbian national minority in the Municipality of Vrhovine account for 53.03% of the total population of the self-government unit. The Municipality of Vrhovine

laid down in its Statute that national minority members are guaranteed equal use of their language and script, and that the exact form of the equal use of the minority languages and scripts would be provided for by special general acts, which has not happened yet.

- (182) The implementation of the Decision on the Settlements of the Municipality of Dvor is underway, and it will put into effect the right to bilingual traffic signs, names of streets and squares, and names of places and localities. Name plates of the Municipality bodies are bilingual.

#### 4.4.2.1.6 County of Zadar

##### **Municipality of Gračac**

- (183) Although members of the Serbian national minority in the Municipality of Gračac account for 38.82% of the total population of the self-government unit, equal official use of the Serbian language and Cyrillic script has not been regulated by the Municipal Statute, with the explanation that there has been no interest of minority members in this.

#### 4.4.2.1.7 County of Osijek-Baranja

##### **Municipality of Bilje**

- (184) Members of the Hungarian national minority in the Municipality of Vrhovine account for 35.05% of the total population of the self-government unit, and the Municipal Statute stipulates that in a part of the territory of the municipality, in the settlements of Kopačevo, Vardarac and Lug, the Hungarian language and script are introduced into equal official use, in addition to the Croatian language and Latin script.
- (185) Work of the Municipal Council and Municipal Government is conducted in the Croatian language and Latin script, and work of the communal boards of Kopačevo, Vardarac and Lug is conducted in both the Croatian language and Latin script, and the Hungarian language and script. In the communal boards of Kopačevo, Vardarac and Lug, bilingual texts are provided on stamps and seals, name plates of the communal boards and of legal persons performing activities on their territory or in some parts of the territory, and in letterheads, in equal letter size, and official notices are also bilingual. Materials for the meetings of the Municipal Council and for the members of the Municipal Government, minutes, publications of documents and official notices, as well as the notifications of representative, executive and administrative bodies of the Municipality are written in the Croatian language and Latin script. Official documents, certificates and forms are printed in the Croatian language and Latin script. In the settlements of Kopačevo, Vardarac and Lug, traffic signs and other written road markings, street names and square names, names of places and geographic localities, as well as the name plates of legal and natural persons performing public activities are bilingual. Parties are generally received in the Croatian language, but the request of a party to conduct the conversation in Hungarian would be granted, although there have been no requests so far to conduct first-instance and second-instance proceedings before administrative bodies in the minority language.

### **Municipality of Erdut**

- (186) Although members of the Serbian national minority in the Municipality of Erdut account for 53.91% of the total population of the self-government unit, equal official use of the Serbian language and Cyrillic script is not regulated by the Municipal Statute. The Statute stipulates only in principle that, in addition to the Croatian language and Latin script, the Serbian language and Cyrillic script are in official use on the territory of the municipality.
- (187) There have been no requests so far for the delivery of bilingual documents for the meetings of the Council or Government, nor acts adopted by the said bodies. Citizens submitted no requests for the facilitation of the use of bilingual forms. As regards traffic signs and other written road markings, street names and square names, names of places and geographic localities, bilingualism is in full effect in those areas where the national minority constitutes a majority. This right is, however, not exercised when putting up signs for populated places along state roads, since the State Roads Directorate does not allow it. Bilingualism is used for some name plates, taking into consideration all the elements, especially the structure of the population in the area where the name plates are put up.

### **Municipality of Jagodnjak**

- (188) Members of the Serbian national minority in the Municipality of Jagodnjak account for 64.72% of the total population of the self-government unit, and equal official use of the Serbian language and Cyrillic script is regulated by the Municipal Statute.
- (189) In the work of the Municipal Council and Government, there is equal use of Serbian, and councillors can deliver their communications in the language and script of the national minority. The name plate at the entrance to the Municipality facilities is inscribed in both the Croatian language and Latin script, and in the languages and scripts of the Serbian and Hungarian national minority. There is a guaranteed possibility of preparing bilingual materials for the meetings of the Municipal Council and Municipal Government, should national minority members request it. There is a guaranteed possibility of issuing bilingual public documents, should national minority members request it. Street name plates are inscribed in both Croatian language and Latin script, and Serbian language and Cyrillic script in a part of the municipality, i.e. in the settlements of Bolman, Novi Bolman and Majške Međe. Place names are not inscribed in the language and script of the national minority, as they are not within the municipal scope of competences, since it is a county or state road. One can use the national minority language and script before administrative bodies of the Municipality, but there were no such requests during 2007 and 2008.

### **Municipality of Kneževi Vinogradi**

- (190) Members of the Hungarian national minority in the Municipality of Kneževi Vinogradi account for 40.90%, and members of the Serbian national minority for 18.43% of the total population of the self-government unit. The Municipal Statute stipulates that the Croatian language and Latin script are in official use in the Municipality of Kneževi Vinogradi, but, under the conditions provided by the law, the Serbian language and Cyrillic script, as well as the Hungarian language and script can be introduced into official use in addition to the Croatian language and Latin script. Furthermore, the Statute stipulates that all the public

signs, notices and publications of normative acts of the local self-government bodies, as well as the acts issued by an administrative body of the Municipality are written in Croatian, and in the villages of Suza, Zmajevac, Kotlina and Kamenac also in Hungarian. In other villages, the need for the use and publishing in Hungarian and Serbian is determined by the Municipal Council. Local self-government bodies, as well as public enterprises and institutions must ensure the necessary number of staff members who, apart from Croatian, use Hungarian or Serbian at the similar level. Administrative bodies of the Municipality, public institutions, legal persons which perform economic, social, communal and other activities, founded by the Municipality, are obliged to use, in addition to Croatian, the Hungarian or Serbian language and seals for official purposes if there is a need for that.

- (191) In practice, the work of the Municipal Council and Municipal Government is conducted in the Croatian language and Latin script. The official seal of the Municipality of Kneževi Vinogradi is inscribed in the Croatian language and Latin script. The name plates on the Municipality building are inscribed in three languages (Croatian, Hungarian and Serbian), as are the name plates of the Communal Boards of Kneževi Vinogradi and Karanac, while the name plates of the Communal Boards of Suza, Zmajevac, Kotlina and Kamenac are bilingual (Croatian and Hungarian). The official website of the Municipality of Kneževi Vinogradi is written in Croatian and Hungarian languages and scripts. Materials for the meetings of the councillors and members of the Municipal Government, minutes and publications of documents are prepared only in the Croatian language and Latin script. Public notices, tender and vacancy announcements are published in the Croatian language and Latin script, and in Hungarian. The Municipality delivers an annual Report on the work of the municipality together with the budget execution report for the previous year and the budget plan for the current year in all three languages - Croatian, Serbian and Hungarian.
- (192) Official documents, certificates and confirmations are printed in Croatian, and upon the request of a party also in Hungarian or Serbian. Written road markings are in Croatian, except for street names in Kamenac, Kotlina, Suza and Zmajevac, where they are bilingual (Croatian and Hungarian), as is the case for the Petefi Šandor Street in Karanac and in Kneževi Vinogradi. The Svetozar Miletić Street sign in Kneževi Vinogradi is written in both the Croatian language and Latin script, and Serbian language and Cyrillic script. Citizens are received in Croatian and in Hungarian on a regular basis, but there have been no requests so far to conduct first and second instance proceedings before administrative bodies in the language of the national minority.

### **Municipality of Punitovci**

- (193) Although members of the Slovak national minority in the Municipality of Punitovci account for 35.57% of the total population of the self-government unit, equal official use of the Slovak language and script is not regulated by the Municipal Statute.
- (194) Members of the Slovak national minority have expressed no interest in the equal official use of the Slovak language and script.

### **Municipality of Šodolovci**

- (195) Members of the Serbian national minority in the Municipality of Šodolovci account for 84.55% of the total population of the self-government unit, and equal official use of the Serbian language and Cyrillic script is regulated by the Municipal Statute.
- (196) Bilingual materials for the meetings of the Municipal Council and Municipal Government, bilingual minutes, conclusions and notifications are not produced, as the councillors and members of the Municipal Government have not requested it so far. Bilingual inscriptions are ensured on official seals and name plates of the representative and executive bodies of the Municipality. Bilingual public documents and forms for official purposes are, in practice, not issued to citizens. Traffic signs, names of streets and squares, as well as the names of places and localities are not bilingual. Members of the Serbian national minority have expressed no interest in using the Serbian language and Cyrillic script in the first and second instance proceedings before administrative bodies of the municipality.

#### 4.4.2.1.8 County of Šibenik-Knin

### **Municipality of Biskupija**

- (197) Members of the Serbian national minority in the Municipality of Biskupija account for 77.29% of the total population of the self-government unit, and equal official use of the Serbian language and Cyrillic script is regulated by general acts of the Municipality.

### **Municipality of Cviljane**

- (198) Members of the Serbian national minority in the Municipality of Cviljane account for 68.61% of the total population of the self-government unit, and equal official use of the Serbian language and Cyrillic script is regulated by general acts of the Municipality.

### **Municipality of Ervenik**

- (199) Although members of the Serbian national minority in the Municipality of Ervenik account for 94.94% of the total population of the self-government unit, equal official use of the Serbian language and Cyrillic script is not regulated by general acts of the Municipality.

### **Municipality of Kistanje**

- (200) Members of the Serbian national minority in the Municipality of Kistanje account for 57.14% of the total population of the self-government unit, and equal official use of the Serbian language and Cyrillic script is regulated by general acts of the Municipality.

#### 4.4.2.1.9 County of Vukovar-Srijem

##### **Municipality of Borovo**

- (201) Members of the Serbian national minority in the Municipality of Borovo account for 86.57% of the total population of the self-government unit, and equal official use of the Serbian language and Cyrillic script is regulated by the Municipal Statute.
- (202) Work of the Municipal Council and Municipal Government is conducted bilingually. The texts on official seals and name plates of municipal bodies and legal persons vested with public powers are bilingual. Letterheads are written in the Croatian language and Latin script, and materials for meetings are delivered bilingually in the Latin script. Street name plates are inscribed in both scripts, but the right to put up traffic signs in the Cyrillic script, especially traffic signs with the inscriptions of place names, was disputed. There have been no requests so far for the conduct of first instance proceedings in the language and script of the national minority.

##### **Municipality of Markušica**

- (203) Members of the Serbian national minority in the Municipality of Markušica account for 90.76% of the total population of the self-government unit, and equal official use of the Serbian language and Cyrillic script is regulated by the Municipal Statute.
- (204) On the entire territory of the municipality, traffic signs and other road markings, names of streets and squares, and the names of places and localities which are within the scope of competences of the Municipality are inscribed bilingually, in equal letter size. Names of villages along state and county roads are not bilingual. Work of the Municipal Council and Municipal Government is conducted bilingually. Materials for meetings, minutes and conclusions, as well as the publications of official notifications are written in the Latin script, and only upon the request of councillors in Cyrillic. The Municipality uses bilingual seals, stamps, letterheads, name plates and forms for official purposes. The issue of bilingual public documents is possible, but there have been no requests of the local population. The conduct of administrative proceedings before administrative bodies in Serbian is facilitated, but the possibility has not been exercised so far.

##### **Municipality of Negoslavci**

- (205) Members of the Serbian national minority in the Municipality of Negoslavci account for 97.20% of the total population of the self-government unit, and equal official use of the Serbian language and Cyrillic script is regulated by the Municipal Statute.
- (206) Generally, the right to equal official use of the Serbian language and Cyrillic script is exercised in entirety. Public documents are issued in bilingual form at the request of citizens. So far, there have been no requests to conduct proceedings before administrative bodies in the language and script of the national minority.

### **Municipality of Trpinja**

- (207) Members of the Serbian national minority in the Municipality of Trpinja account for 89.30% of the total population of the self-government unit, and equal official use of the Serbian language and Cyrillic script is regulated by the Municipal Statute.
- (208) Work of the Municipal Council and Municipal Government is conducted in the Croatian language and Latin script, which also refers to materials for the work at the meetings and the minutes. Due to the lack of technical capacities, a small number of staff in the Municipality, and the lack of interest of the councillors and members of the Municipal Government, it is not possible to work in the language and script of the national minority. The texts of stamps and seals, as well as the name plates of the Municipal Council and Municipal Government, Administrative Department of the Municipality of Trpinja and Kindergarten Liliput, the founder of which is the Municipality of Trpinja, are bilingual, inscribed in equal letter size. As there is no interest among the citizens, bilingual public documents and forms are not issued. Traffic signs are written in the Croatian language and Latin script. Street names are inscribed in the Croatian language and Latin script, as well as the language and script of the Serbian national minority. The names of places along state and county roads are not written bilingually, although the request was submitted to the Hrvatske ceste (Croatian Roads). So far, there have been no requests to conduct proceedings before administrative bodies in the language and script of the national minority.

#### 4.4.2.1.10 County of Istria

### **Municipality of Brtonigla–Verteneglio**

- (209) Members of the Italian national minority in the Municipality of Brtonigla-Verteneglio account for 37.37% of the total population of the self-government unit, and equal official use of the Italian language and script is regulated by the Municipal Statute.
- (210) Under the provisions of the Statute of the Municipality of Brtonigla relating to the protection of the indigenous Italian national minority and its members, Croatian and Italian are equal on the territory of the Municipality of Brtonigla, and the Municipality of Brtonigla has provided conditions guaranteeing that the entire public and official life in the Municipality shall be conducted under equal treatment of both languages and scripts.
- (211) The Municipality of Brtonigla has ensured bilingualism of the inscriptions of stamps and seals, name plates of the representative, executive and administrative bodies, as well as legal persons vested with public powers, in the texts of letterheads, official announcements and notifications of the representative, executive and administrative bodies, and of materials for the meetings of the representative body and executive body.
- (212) On the territory of the Municipality of Brtonigla, traffic signs and other written road markings, names of streets and squares, names of places and geographic localities, as well as the name plates of legal and natural persons performing public activities are inscribed in Croatian and Italian, in equal letter size.
- (213) Forms, notifications, certificates, decisions and other individual acts of administrative bodies addressed at citizens have to contain both Croatian and Italian texts. Public announcements,

notifications and other notices have to contain both Croatian and Italian texts. Signs and labels in offices have to be in Croatian and in Italian. Marriages are contracted in the language or languages in equal official use on the territory of the Municipality of Brtonigla, according to the agreement of the persons intending to marry.

### **Municipality of Grožnjan – Grisignana**

- (214) Members of the Italian national minority in the Municipality of Grožnjan-Grisignana account for 51.21% of the total population of the self-government unit, and equal official use of the Italian language and script is regulated by the Municipal Statute.
- (215) Work of the Municipal Government and Municipal Council is conducted bilingually, in both Croatian and Italian. Stamps, seals and name plates are bilingual. Materials for meetings, notices etc. are bilingual. Public documents for citizens are bilingual. Traffic signs, names of places and squares are bilingual. The use of the minority language in administrative bodies is common.

*4.4.2.2 Overview of municipalities and towns where equal official use of minority language and script has been introduced or partly regulated by the statute of the self-government unit*

#### 4.4.2.2.1 County of Bjelovar-Bilogora

##### **Town of Daruvar**

- (216) The Town Statute introduced the Czech language into equal official use in the settlements of Ljudevit Selo, Donji Daruvar, Gornji Daruvar, Doljani and Daruvar.

#### 4.4.2.2.2 County of Primorje-Gorski Kotar

##### **City of Rijeka**

- (217) The mode of official use of Italian was introduced and regulated by the City Statute. The indigenous Italian national minority is guaranteed the use of their language and script in public affairs from the self-government scope of the City of Rijeka. The above provision of the Statute means that members of the Italian national minority can address communications to the City in Italian, and that a member of the City Council who is a member of the Italian national minority can participate in discussions during meetings using Italian.
- (218) The Italian National Minority Council of the City of Rijeka exercises its right and uses Italian in its correspondence with the City.

##### **Town of Cres**

- (219) The Town Statute partially enables the Italian national minority to exercise equal official use of Italian. The Statute regulates the exercise of equal official use of Italian pursuant to the

provisions of the *Act on the Use of the Languages and Scripts of National Minorities*, excluding bilingual inscriptions of the names of settlements, streets and squares, bilingual name plates and letterheads of the bodies of the Town of Cres, communal self-government and legal persons vested with public powers.

#### 4.4.2.2.3 County of Osijek-Baranja

##### **Town of Našice**

- (220) In the settlement of Jelisavec, Slovak was introduced into equal official use. Public documents and forms are issued to citizens only in Croatian. In the settlement of Jelisavec, the name of the settlement and street names are inscribed in Croatian and Slovak. Members of the Slovak national minority have expressed no interest in using the Slovak language and script in the proceedings before administrative bodies of the Town of Našice.

##### **Municipality of Ernestinovo**

- (221) In the settlement of Laslovo, Hungarian was introduced into equal official use. The Statute of the Municipality of Ernestinovo stipulates that in settlements where at least a third of the population are members of one national minority, in addition to the Croatian language and Latin script, the language and script of that national minority shall be introduced into equal use. In the settlement of Laslovo, traffic signs and other written road markings, names of streets and squares, and the names of places and geographic localities are inscribed bilingually, in equal letter size.

##### **Municipality of Petlovac**

- (222) In the village of Novi Bezdán, all the names of places, streets and public buildings are inscribed in both Croatian and Hungarian languages and scripts.

#### 4.4.2.2.4 County of Vukovar-Syrmia

##### **Town of Vukovar**

- (223) The Town Council of the Town of Vukovar adopted a new Statute on 14 July 2009, and Article 51 paragraph 3 regulates the free use of the Serbian language and Cyrillic script in official communication in public affairs from the self-government scope of the Town of Vukovar.

##### **Municipality of Bogdanovci**

- (224) In the Municipality of Bogdanovci, the official use of the Ruthenian language and script is regulated by the Statute and implemented on the territory of the village of Petrovci.

### **Municipality of Tompojevci**

(225) Members of the Ruthenian and Hungarian national minority in the Municipality of Tompojevci exercise their right to the use of their language in the villages in which they constitute a majority of the population, i.e. the Ruthenian minority in the village of Mukluševci, and the Hungarian in Čakovci.

### **Municipality of Tordinci**

(226) In the Municipality of Tordinci, on the territory of the village of Korod, where members of the Hungarian national minority constitute the majority, the Statute regulates, in addition to the Croatian language and Latin script, the official use of the Hungarian language and script.

### **Municipality of Nijemci**

(227) In the Municipality of Nijemci, it is regulated by the Statute that members of the Serbian national minority in the villages of Banovci and Vinkovački Banovci are entitled to the use of their language on the territory of the villages they live in.

#### 4.4.2.2.5 County of Istria

(228) The conditions and mode of equal use of the Italian language and script in the County of Istria are regulated by the Statute of the County of Istria (Official Gazette of the County of Istria - *Bollettino ufficiale della Regione istriana*)

(229) By the Decision no.: U-II-425/2002 of 16 January 2008, the Constitutional Court dismissed the proposal to institute the proceedings for the review of constitutionality and legality of Article 3 paragraph 2, as well as Articles 5 paragraph 3 and Articles 8, 9 and 10 of the Amendments to the Statute of the County of Istria (Official Gazette of the County of Istria no. 12/01), which kept in force the provisions of the Statute of the County of Istria referring to:

- the text of stamps, seals, name plates of the representative and the executive body, as well as administrative bodies of the County, and letterheads;
- equal and official use of Croatian and Italian in the work of the county bodies;
- provisions referring to the cultivation of Istrianity as an expression of Istrian multiethnicism;
- provisions referring to the equal and official use of Croatian and Italian in the work of all the bodies within the self-government scope and in the proceedings before administrative bodies;
- provisions on the equal and official use of Croatian and Italian in the municipalities and towns/cities where this is regulated by the municipal and town/city statutes.

(230) In the Assembly and Government of the County of Istria, the councillors and members of the County Government use Croatian and Italian, and are allowed to deliver communications and other submissions in Croatian and in Italian. Stamps and seals are inscribed bilingually, in equal letter size.

(231) At the meetings of the County Assembly, shorthand minutes are drafted, which means that the discussion of the councillors is recorded in the language used by each individual councillor. All adopted legal acts are published in both languages, as are the announcements and notifications of the representative, executive and administrative bodies. The councillors and members of the County Government are delivered notifications for the meetings in both languages, which is, however, not the case for materials, except for those sent by the Administrative Department for the Italian National Community and Other Ethnic Groups, which is obliged to deliver its materials in both languages. There have been no requests by the councillors or members of the County Government to deliver materials in the language of the Italian national minority. The forms used are printed in both languages. In first and second instance proceedings before administrative bodies of the County of Istria, there have been no requests of the members of the Italian minority to use Italian.

### **Town of Buje - Buie**

(232) The mode of official use of Italian was introduced and regulated by the Statute of the Town of Buje. Seals and name plates of the Town are bilingual and inscribed in equal letter size. Notifications for meetings, with the agenda for the Council and Government are bilingual, while only a minor part of materials for the meetings are also in Italian. Public documents and forms are bilingual. Other answers and communication are conducted in the language which a party used to address the Town. Traffic signs, names of places and street signs, as well as all other announcements of events and other happenings within the scope of the Town are always bilingual, inscribed in equal letter size.

(233) The obstacle in the realisation of full bilingualism in all the materials for the Council and Government, and in the print of bilingual Official Gazette of the Town of Buje is primarily of financial nature, due to a modest budget. In the new Ordinance on Internal Order of 1 April 2008, a new civil service position was systematised, for an Expert Assistant – Translator and PR Coordinator, which requires a graduate degree in the field of linguistics and literature – Italian language and literature graduate, as a civil servant responsible for the translation of all materials and the maintenance of the Town of Buje website. With the introduction of the above position, the situation with regard to effective application of bilingualism should improve significantly.

### **Town of Novigrad**

(234) The mode of official use of Italian was introduced and regulated by the Town Statute. The provisions of Articles 8, 9, 10 and 11 of the *Act on the Use of the Languages and Scripts of National Minorities* are fully applied in the Town. Names of places, squares and streets are bilingual. If members of the Italian national minority submit a request for the conduct of a first instance administrative proceeding in Italian, the request is granted.

### **Town of Poreč - Parenzo**

(235) The mode of official use of Italian was introduced and regulated by the Statute of the Town of Poreč. The town services employ the necessary number of staff who speak Italian. A free translation service is provided by the Town for the members of the Italian national minority

if they request it. Public announcements, notifications and other notices are written in Croatian and Italian. Offices which often contact members of the Italian national minority have their name plates and signs in Italian as well. The Town Statute is written in both Croatian and Italian. Public name plates of legal and natural persons are, as a rule, inscribed in Croatian and Italian.

- (236) Materials for the meetings of the representative and the executive body are not bilingual. In the settlement of Poreč, name plates and names of places, streets and squares have to be in both Croatian and Italian. Although the Town employs a certain number of civil servants who speak Italian, in order to enable members of the Italian national minority to exercise the right to use their language, there have been no requests to use Italian in practice.

### **Town of Pula - Pola**

- (237) Members of the Italian national minority in the Town of Pula are guaranteed equal official use of the Italian language and script, development of their culture and education in Italian by the Town Statute.
- (238) Work of the Town Council and Town Government is conducted in the Croatian language and Latin script, and members of the Italian national minority are given the right to use their language in the work of those bodies, which is occasionally practised. Texts of stamps and seals, name plates of the representative, executive and administrative bodies of the Town of Pula and of the communal boards are bilingual. Letterheads are bilingual, in equal letter size. Bilingual materials can be provided to councillors and members of the government at their request, but there have been no such requests so far, nor have there been any requests that the minutes, conclusions etc. be delivered in Italian. Nevertheless, some official announcements were published bilingually, e.g. of the calling of elections for the communal board councils in 2007 and of the polling stations. Announcements in Italian were published in the paper *La voce del popolo*, placed on the Town notice board and in the facilities of communal boards. Public documents and forms used for official purposes contain bilingual letterheads, but are written only in Croatian. Bilingual inscriptions of the names of streets and squares, and of the Town of Pula at the town entrances have been ensured, while traffic signs are only in Croatian. Although members of the Italian national minority have the right to use their language and script in first and second instance proceedings before administrative bodies of the Town, no interest of the Italian national minority has been noted to exercise that right.

### **Town of Rovinj - Rovigno**

- (239) The Statute of the Town of Rovinj stipulates that Croatian and Italian are equal on the territory of the town of Rovinj-Rovigno. The work of the Town Council and Government of the Town of Rovinj-Rovigno is conducted in Croatian and Italian, and in the Latin script. Stamps, seals, letterheads, name plates of the representative, executive and administrative bodies of the Town, as well as legal persons vested with public powers and founded by the Town Council of the Town of Rovinj-Rovigno, are inscribed in both Croatian and Italian, in equal letter size.
- (240) All the materials considered at the Town Council meetings are delivered to the councillors bilingually, including the minutes and publications of conclusions and general acts in the Official Gazette of the Town of Rovinj-Rovigno. Public documents and printed forms of the

town administration used for official purposes are written in both Croatian and Italian. Names of streets and squares, places and geographic localities, and other written road markings are inscribed in both Croatian and Italian. Members of the Italian national minority have the right to equal official use of their language in the proceedings before the town administration, which is generally exercised. The town administration employs members of the Italian national minority, as well as Croats with the active use of Italian.

### **Town of Umag - Umago**

- (241) The Statute of the Town of Umag regulates the official use of Croatian and Italian. The Rules of Procedure of the Town Council stipulate that a speaker in a Council session can speak in both Croatian and Italian, and the provision in question is applied in such a way that a councillor has a possibility to present in Italian. The texts of stamps and seals are inscribed in Croatian and Italian, in equal letter size. Name plates of the representative, executive and administrative bodies of the Town of Umag, administrative bodies of the County in the town and legal persons vested with public powers are inscribed in Croatian and Italian, in equal letter size. Letterheads of the acts of the town authorities are written in both Croatian and Italian, in equal letter size.
- (242) Members of the Town Council and Government of the Town of Umag who are members of the Italian national minority receive materials for sessions in Italian, and every issue of the Official Gazette of the Town of Umag is also printed in Italian. Official announcements and notifications of the representative, executive and administrative bodies of the Town of Umag are published in Croatian and Italian.
- (243) The Town of Umag issues bilingual documents. Forms used for official purposes are bilingual. Traffic signs and other written road markings, names of streets and squares, places and geographic localities are inscribed in both Croatian and Italian, in equal letter size. In 2008, there were altogether 10 first and second instance proceedings before administrative bodies of the Town of Umag.

### **Town of Vodnjan - Dignano**

- (244) The Statute of the Town of Vodnjan introduced the official use of both Croatian and Italian.
- (245) Meetings of the Town Government and Council are conducted in Croatian and Italian. The texts of stamps and seals, name plates and legal acts are bilingual, in equal letter size. Materials for the meetings of the Government and Council are bilingual. Upon request, public documents are delivered bilingually. All forms of the Town of Vodnjan are bilingual. Traffic signs, names of places, streets and squares are bilingual. In first instance proceedings, members of national minorities are entitled to use the language and script which is in equal official use.

### **Municipality of Bale - Valle**

- (246) The mode of equal official use of Italian was introduced and regulated by the Statute of the Municipality of Bale. The Croatian language and Latin script, and the language and script of

the Italian national minority are used equally in the work of the Municipal Council and Government. The texts of stamps and seals are bilingual, in equal letter size. Name plates of town bodies are bilingual. Materials for the meetings of the Municipal Council and Government, as well as the minutes and conclusions are bilingual. Public documents and forms used for official purposes are issued in bilingual form. Traffic signs, names of streets and squares, as well as the names of places and localities are bilingual. Members of the Italian national minority are entitled to use their language and script before administrative bodies. Bodies of the self-government unit issue documents and print forms for official purposes in bilingual form.

#### **Municipality of Funtana - Fontane**

- (247) Equal official use of Italian in the inscriptions of name plates is regulated by the Statute of the Municipality of Funtana. A bilingual sign in Croatian and Italian is placed at the entrance to the settlement.

#### **Municipality of Fažana - Fasana**

- (248) Equal official use of Italian was introduced and regulated by the Statute of the Municipality of Fažana. Name plates are inscribed bilingually, in Croatian and Italian. Members of the Italian national minority have a possibility of participating in proceedings in a minority language if such interest is expressed.

#### **Municipality of Kaštelir-Labinci - Castelliere-S.Domenica**

- (249) The Statute of the Municipality of Kaštelir-Labinci stipulates that the names on plates and names of places, streets and squares in the settlements on the territory of the Municipality of Kaštelir-Labinci can be inscribed in Croatian and Italian. Legal and natural persons performing public activities in the settlements on the territory of the Municipality of Kaštelir-Labinci can write their names bilingually, in Croatian and Italian.

#### **Municipality of Ližnjan - Lisignano**

- (250) The Statute of the Municipality of Ližnjan envisages equal official use of Italian and Croatian on the territory of the village of Šišan – Sissano. At the seat of the Municipality of Ližnjan, there are bilingual name plates of the municipal bodies, and it has been ensured that civil servants in administration bodies speak Italian, in order to be able to communicate with members of the Italian national minority.

#### **Municipality of Motovun - Montona**

- (251) The Italian national community and its members living on the territory of the municipality are guaranteed the right to free and equal use of their language and script. All name plates and names of places, streets and squares have to be in both Croatian and Italian. The name of the Municipality on the plate put up on the façade of the Municipality building is inscribed in

Croatian and Italian. The text of the Municipality seal is inscribed in Croatian and Italian. All other public inscriptions and signboards inside facilities, as well as markings in the villages are, as a rule, in Croatian and Italian. To enable the exercise of the rights and equality of the Italian national minority in public life, the Municipality of Motovun employs a certain number of people within its self-government scope and its administrative bodies who use Croatian and Italian at the similar level. Marriage ceremonies are performed in Croatian or in Italian, or bilingually, according to the agreement of the persons intending to marry.

- (252) In the issues from the self-government scope of the Municipality which are of special interest for the members of the Italian national minority, the Committee for the issues and protection of the rights of the Italian national minority, as a permanent working body of the Municipal Council, is guaranteed the right of consensus.

### **Municipality of Oprtalj - Portole**

- (253) The Statute of the Municipality of Oprtalj introduced the possibility of using Italian, in addition to Croatian as the official language. Traffic signs and other written road markings, names of streets and squares, of places and localities are bilingual. Work of the Municipal Council is conducted in Croatian, with a possibility of using Italian as well. Bilingual inscriptions are ensured for stamps and seals, name plates of the representative, executive and administrative bodies of the Municipality, as well as legal persons vested with public powers and letterheads, in equal letter size.

### **Municipality of Tar-Vabriga - Torre-Abrega**

- (254) Equal official use of Italian was introduced and regulated by the Municipal Statute.
- (255) Local and regional self-government bodies, political organisations, public legal persons and other organisations of special social interest use bilingual stamps and seals in their work. In practice, there are certain deviations from the obligation that all public inscriptions, notices on the notice boards of state administrative and judicial bodies, local and regional self-government bodies, institutions, legal and natural persons be written in Croatian and Italian, in letters of equal font and size. Materials for the meetings of the representative and the executive body are not bilingual. In the settlements of the municipality, name plates and names of places, streets and squares have to be in both Croatian and Italian. The Municipality ensured the necessary number of civil servants who can use Italian in the positions which involve direct communication with citizens, although, in practice, all members of the Italian national minority speak Croatian.

### **Municipality of Višnjan – Visignano**

- (256) In the Municipality of Višnjan, the use of the language and script of the Italian national minority is regulated for 10 settlements: Višnjan, Markovac, Deklevi, Benčani, Štuti, Bucalovići, Legovići, Strpačići, Barat and Farini Certificates, decisions etc. are not issued in bilingual form. The names of settlements and streets are bilingual in the above mentioned 10 settlements.

### **Municipality of Vrsar – Orsera**

(257) The Statute of the Municipality of Vrsar provides for the possibility of conducting proceedings in Italian, and most of the staff of the Municipality use Italian actively, which enables the conduct of proceedings in Italian for the members of the Italian national minority.

#### ***4.4.3 Minority language use in proceedings conducted by legal persons vested with public powers***

(258) In the Buje Social Welfare Centre, in addition to the Croatian language and Latin script, the script of the Italian national minority is in official use, and all documents, forms, notifications, stamps, name plates and letterheads are bilingual.

(259) The Pula Social Welfare Centre has ensured communication in Italian for members of the Italian national minority.

(260) In the Daruvar Social Welfare Centre, communication in Czech is ensured for members of the Czech national minority.

(261) In other social welfare centres, national minority members expressed no interest in the equal official use of the languages and scripts of national minorities, and there were no proceedings for the purpose of exercising social welfare rights where the seals, stamps, name plates or letterheads were bilingual or multilingual.

#### ***4.4.4 ID cards in the languages and scripts of national minorities***

(262) The provision of Article 9 paragraph 2 of the *Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities* (OG 155/02) stipulates that national minority members are entitled to have their ID card form printed and filled out in the language and script they use. Under the provision of Article 8 paragraphs 2 and 3 of the *Identity Card Act* (OG 11/02, 122/02 and 31/06), when this is regulated by special law or international contracts, the ID card form for a national minority member is printed also in the language of the national minority, and is filled out in the Croatian language and Latin script, as well as the language and script of the national minority members.

(263) During 2006, 2007 and 2008, members of national minorities were issued the following number of ID cards printed in the languages and scripts of national minorities:

**Table 9 - ID cards issued in the languages and scripts of national minorities**

National minority	Year of issue of ID card		
	2006.	2007.	2008.
- Italian national minority	2913	2561	3120
- Serbian national minority	34	66	36
- Hungarian national minority	36	42	23
- Czech national minority	1	1	8
- Ruthenian national minority	-	-	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	2984	2670	3188

(264) Out of the above number, the following number of ID cards were issued outside the areas where a minority language is in official use:

**Table 10 - ID cards issued in the languages and scripts of national minorities outside the areas where a minority language is in official use**

National minority	Year of issue of ID card		
	2006.	2007.	2008.
- Italian national minority	10	10	20
- Serbian national minority	1	14	9
- Hungarian national minority	2	2	3
- Czech national minority	-	-	3
- Ruthenian national minority	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	13	26	35

(265) In 2006, 2007 and 2008, no requests were submitted in police directorates and stations of the Ministry of the Interior for the conduct of administrative proceedings in the languages and scripts of national minorities, but in 2006, citizens were, at their request, issued 1274 bilingual confirmations of the facts of which the Ministry of the Interior keeps official records, 1722 confirmations in 2007 and 1812 confirmations in 2008.

(266) The Ministry of the Interior has obtained an approval and had 125 seals produced, which contain the coat of arms of the Republic of Croatia and bilingual text of the seal (the language and script of the members of a national minority, in addition to the Croatian language and Latin script) for police directorates and stations on the territory of which the language and script of a national minority is in equal official use.

#### 4.5 Article 11 – Media

*Paragraph 1:*

*subparagraph a) item iii*

*subparagraph d)*

*subparagraph e) item ii*

*Paragraph 2*

*Paragraph 3*

##### 4.5.1 Croatian Radio and Television (*Hrvatska radiotelevizija - HRT*)

- (267) The HRT has made significant progress in addressing minority issues in the past three years, and according to the HRT programming orientation, a cycle of TV programmes in minority languages is soon to be launched.
- (268) It should be noted that HRT has no so-called "diversity policy" - prescribed treatment models for minority issues within its programming scheme, nor is there any so-called positive discrimination of minorities in hiring associates. Nevertheless, reflecting the society as a whole, HRT programmes often, directly or indirectly, address minority issues. Minority languages, however, can be found almost exclusively in specialized programmes.

##### 4.5.1.1 Croatian Television (*Hrvatska televizija - HTV*)

- (269) With regard to the question of the Committee of Experts from paragraph 189 [ECRML (2008)1; MIN-LANG (2008)27], a detailed presentation of the language-specific presence of regional or minority languages on the Croatian public television is given below.
- (270) The National Minorities, Diaspora and Civil Society Desk within the Croatian Television News and Information Desk produces a weekly **multinational magazine Prizma**, which has run continuously for over 16 years, since March 1993. Prizma is one of the very few programs which are broadcast throughout the year without the summer break, on HTV1 on Saturdays from 13:20h-14:05h. Viewer ratings are at approximately 7%, and the viewer share around 30%, which can be interpreted as very high ratings given the highly specialized area and broadcasting time. The programme is financed exclusively from the HRT resources.
- (271) The multinational news magazine Prizma covers all aspects of the life of minorities: from political participation, work of councils, representatives and institutions to minority cultures, traditions, education in minority languages and life in Croatia in general. It is an attractive programme which seeks to convey the message of multiculturalism through individual life stories, so as to attract even the audience which traditionally does not follow more serious public programmes. The programme follows the minorities in a systematic way, reporting for them, but also about them – and trying to evoke a positive emotion in the viewer, which is the first step in understanding other people and their differences. Unlike its profile 10 years ago, the programme does not have a folkloric character, but addresses minority rights issues, where the traditional aspect is less prominent.
- (272) Individual minorities are represented in the programme in proportion to their share of the population, but also depending on the degree of their organization. Although the HTV programme scheme also includes other minority languages, the information specified below

concerns those regional or minority languages in Croatia which are covered by Part III. of the *Charter*.

**Table 11 – Prizma in 2007**

<b>MINORITIES</b>	<b>NO. OF REPORTS</b>	<b>LENGTH</b>
CZECHS	46	2:25:51
HUNGARIANS	46	2:14:05
RUTHENIANS	9	33:00
SLOVAKS	15	43:20
SERBS	83	4:19:40
ITALIANS	70	3:03:45
UKRAINIANS	12	35:40
MULTINATIONAL EVENTS (minority council coordinations, joint cultural events)	49	2:31:10
MULTICULTURAL EVENTS (NGO activities, human rights etc.)	32	2:06:31
EIDG (exchange with TV magazines for minorities in Central Europe)	5	35:00

**Table 12 – Prizma in 2008**

<b>MINORITIES</b>	<b>NO. OF REPORTS</b>	<b>LENGTH</b>
CZECHS	46	2:24:20
HUNGARIANS	38	1:51:25
RUTHENIANS	8	19:30
SLOVAKS	18	47:35
SERBS	87	4:24:55
ITALIANS	57	2:52:35
UKRAINIANS	20	47:35
MULTINATIONAL EVENTS (minority council coordinations, joint cultural events)	3	2:12:05
MULTICULTURAL EVENTS (NGO activities, human rights etc.)	27	77:00
IPG (Eurovision exchange)	4	28:45

- (273) National minority members who are speakers of minority languages talk in their language in the programme, with Croatian subtitles. Although no distinction is made between the languages protected and those not protected by the *Charter*, for three languages - Czech, Italian and Hungarian - there are journalists who produce entire feature stories in minority languages. There is also a journalist, member of the Serbian minority, who reports on the Serbian minority in the Eastern Slavonia and Baranja region, using the language of Serbs in that area.
- (274) After the implementation of training for young journalists who are members of national minorities and speakers of minority languages, financed by the Croatian Government, and after an audition, since April 2005 there are members of the Czech, Italian, Serbian and Hungarian national minorities, among others, working for the HTV as external associate journalists.
- (275) In 2007, the Prizma team received an award of the Croatian Helsinki Committee for its contribution to the protection and promotion of human rights in the field of media activity.
- (276) Journalists from the National Minorities, Diaspora and Civil Society Desk "feed" the HTV's daily news and information programmes with minority topics, hence they are represented in programmes such as *Život u živo*, *Vijesti*, *Dnevnik*, *Otvoreno*, as well as programmes like *Latinica*, *Dossier.hr* etc. Once or twice a year, some of the above mentioned studio programmes, such as *Otvoreno* or *Latinica*, which are broadcast during prime time, devote the entire programme to topics from the field of national minorities.

**Table 13 - Overview of the representation of topics from the field of national minorities in the HTV news and information programming**

OTVORENO 2008

02.06.	45:00	Serbian National Council Assembly in the Lisinski Hall
10.09.	45:00	Status of Serbs in Croatia on the occasion of an Open Letter of the Serbian Democratic Forum

PROCES 2008

22.09.	8:00	report on restitution of property of the Serbian Orthodox Church
15.10	4:15	report on war crimes against the Serbian population in Sisak
		guest : Saša Milošević

ZAGREBAČKA PANORAMA 2008

17.12.	1:10	Hungarian cuisine
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HRT PLUS – LIVE 2008

09.11.	2:50:40	11th Festival of Cultural Creativity of the National Minorities
25.12.	60:00	shortened recording of the 11th Festival

VIJESTI IZ KULTURE (CULTURAL NEWS), random selection, October 2008

14.10.	1:00	Czech film week
18.10.	1:42	Italian Language in the World Week

- (277) Perhaps the best example of the systematic broadcast of reports in the field of culture is the daily news programme **Vijesti iz kulture** (Cultural news), where around a dozen minority-related reports are broadcast monthly. However, the sound inserts in these programmes are in Croatian, and not in the languages of national minorities. The reason for this is twofold; on the one hand, the fast pace of daily news programmes often leaves no time for providing subtitles, so voice-over is used, and on the other hand, minority members, when appearing in the “mainstream” programmes, often want to speak in Croatian, not in a minority language.
- (278) Every year, the HTV delivers a live broadcast or a shortened recording of a three-hour concert from the festival “Cultural Creativity of the National Minorities in Croatia”, with the announcements in the languages of national minorities.
- (279) The National Minorities, Diaspora and Civil Society Desk participates in the EBU’s (European Broadcasting Union) documentary co-production series; *City Folk* – about the inhabitants of European capitals from 2004 to 2009, *Inside Offside* 2006, *Muslims in Europe* 2007, *Roma in Europe* 2009. The holder of the last mentioned series is the HTV, and co-production partners are European public televisions.
- (280) In the **Children's and Youth Programming**, within regular shows broadcast under the adopted Programme Broadcasting Scheme, a series of topics were covered, and many representatives of national minorities appeared as guests in the period from 2005 to 2008.
- (281) During the above mentioned years, topics concerning the national minorities, their members and problems, lifestyle and culture were covered and broadcasted. Equality rights are applicable to both children and adults. Therefore, the Children's and Youth Programming is a “space“ within which they all found their place - Italians, Czechs, Slovaks, Hungarians, Roma, Serbs and many others.
- (282) In the competition entitled “European Year of Equal Opportunities” within the programme NULTI SAT (from May to December 2007), the rights of national minorities (among other rights) were promoted on a daily basis. The competition project was raising social awareness of the right to equality and non-discrimination, regardless of the gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnic origin, religion, age, or disability.
- (283) The topic of national minorities pervades the **drama programming**, both films and TV production, in various ways. In the production of domestic programmes, co-production or purchase of films and series, the Drama Desk frequently cooperates with a large number of authors and performers who are members of national minorities. Many relevant Croatian authors use the motif of minorities in their film concepts, either as the main story line, or as an element in the construction of the plot.

**Table 14 - HTV drama programming related to national minority issues**

1. WITNESSES - director Vinko Brešan  
Film and TV series, broadcast in 2005, 2007  
Issue of the Serbian national minority during the Homeland War.
2. HORSEMAN – director Branko Ivanda  
Film and TV series - broadcast in 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007  
Conflicts caused by religious and ethnic differences.
3. TWO PLAYERS FROM THE BENCH – director Dejan Šorak  
Film – broadcast in 2006, 2007  
Backbone of the film is the story of two enemies during the war, a Serb and a Croat, who, as luck would have it, share the same fate and problems after the war.

(284) In the last 5 years, the HTV broadcast a great number of feature films and TV series within its foreign programming, which had been produced in the countries of origin of the national minorities in Croatia (Serbia, Italy, Czech Republic, Hungary and many others).

(285) In the **entertainment programming**, the show *Lijepom našom* presents traditional minority music, and in the past year only, the following minorities participated in the show:

- in Našice – the Slovak minority
- in Daruvar and Požega – the Czech minority
- in Beli Manastir – the Hungarian minority
- in Pazin – the Italian minority

(286) In the period 2005–2008, the following programmes with the topic of national minorities were produced within the **cultural programming**:

- 2005 - Formal ceremony of the 39<sup>th</sup> International Folklore Festival (with the participation of the Serbian Arts and Culture Society (KUD) Branislav Nušić from Borovo)
- 2005 - 8<sup>th</sup> Festival “Cultural Creativity of the National Minorities in the Republic of Croatia”
- 2006 - 40<sup>th</sup> International Folklore Festival (with the participation of the folklore ensemble of the Italian community from Vodnjan)
- 2007 - documentary programme “Kraljice“ (with the participation of the Serbian KUD Branislav Nušić from Borovo)

(287) Many national minority members participated in shows within the **religious culture programming**. There are national minority members in the religious minority communities which are active in the Republic of Croatia, and in some of them members of national minorities constitute the majority.

(288) From 2005 to 2008, the **Documentary Desk** broadcast the following programmes which touched on national minority members in various ways:

- 25.04.08 – HTV1 – 20:10 R Tesla, 45'46", Miro Branković  
The documentary presents the life story of Nikola Tesla, from his birth place Smiljana, education and work in Graz, Maribor, Prague and Paris, to his death in New York. The documentary revealed some previously unknown documents and personal items kept in archives and museums.

- 30.10.08 – HTV1 15:35 P Croatian stories from Slovakia (29'07"), Stjepan Kolak In the documentary filmed in Slovakia, a student Danica from the village of Čunovo near Bratislava, whose mother is Slovak, and father Croatian, tells a story which originated in the small community of Croats in Slovakia.
- 
- 07.03.09 – HTV2 – 21:50 You Have a Beautiful Mom (30'39) Shenida Billali A documentary about the famous “gull” (ladies' man) from Rovinj, Stevan Nikolić called Limbo. The sixty-two-year-old from Belgrade has lived in Croatia, in the Istrian town of Rovinj, since 1964.

(289) With regard to **plans for the future**, it should be pointed out that the HTV’s programming orientation for 2009 envisages the launch of a cycle entitled *Manjinski mozaik* (Minority Mosaic). This is due to the fact that, with the civil society development in our country, and along with it the development of the minority scene, which was particularly driven by the adoption of the *Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities, the Associations Act* and by the establishment of minority councils and representatives, the specialized programme for national minorities *Prizma* fails to respond fully to the requirements of minority associations.

(290) Taking into account that the right to use minority languages in private and public life is an inalienable right by virtue of the principles embodied in the *UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (1966) and in the spirit of the *Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of the Council of Europe* (1950), the HTV plans to broadcast documentary reportage programmes which would address individual minority topics in detail. Through the prism of the intimate stories of individuals, it will portray the position of a minority community in the country – the degree of its integration, to which extent it is threatened by assimilation, and the extent to which indigenous Croats consider them a “threat”. According to the plan, the cycle should begin precisely with the national minorities whose languages are protected by the Charter.

(291) Although some political representatives of the minorities asked for the return of “Manjinske kronike” (Minority Chronicles) - a television format in which minority topics were addressed until the 1990s, the HTV wants to create programmes in minority languages which will be equally attractive, informative, educational and interesting as the rest of the HTV content, in order to attract not only the members of a certain minority group, but other viewers as well. “Manjinske kronike” is an extremely outdated programme format, inadequate for the contemporary level of television development.

#### 4.5.1.2 Croatian Radio (*Hrvatski radio - HR*)

(292) The Croatian Radio broadcasts a series of programmes on minorities and for the minorities on short and medium wave, and some of them are broadcast in minority languages:

- News and information programming – FM – Internet – short wave
  - Systematic reporting in the news and information programmes on daily events in the work of national minorities, monitoring of the work of the Council for National Minorities, monitoring of the work of the Committee on Human and National Minority Rights of the Croatian Parliament.

- Programme for national minorities "Multikultura" - 55 minutes, every Saturday from 16:05-17:00h – a mosaic programme about the life and work of national minorities (feature stories, discussions, interviews).
- Programme "Agora" – 55 minutes, on Tuesday from 09:05h-10:00h twice a month – a mosaic programme (discussions, features on the work of national minorities)
- Informative programmes of regional centres: Radio Sljeme, Radio Dubrovnik, Radio Split, Radio Zadar, Radio Rijeka, Radio Pula, Radio Knin, Radio Osijek – systematic reporting on the activities of national minorities in those areas
- HR's international channel "Glas Hrvatske" (The Voice of Croatia) – satellite – Internet – medium wave – short wave
  - Programme for national minorities "Multikultura" - 55 minutes, rerun on Sundays from 13:05h-14:00h
  - Giornale Radio – daily programme for the Italian minority, 10 to 15 minutes, live transmission on Radio Rijeka at 16:00h
  - Programme for Hungarians – 10 - 15 minutes daily, live transmission on Radio Osijek
- Radio Osijek – FM – Internet
  - Programme for Hungarians - daily from 18:30h to 19:00h
  - Programme for Slovaks – on Sundays from 19:15h to 19:45h.
- Radio Rijeka – FM – Internet
  - News in Italian, daily at 10:00h, 12:00h and 14:00h – except Sunday, up to 5 minutes in length
  - News and information programme for the Italian minority - Giornale Radio at 16:00h – daily except Sunday – up to 15 minutes in length.
- Radio Pula – FM
  - News for the Italian minority, daily at 11:00h and 14:00h
  - Extensive news and information programme for the Italian national minority "Mezz'ora italiana" daily from 16:30h – 17:00h
  - "Rainbow" – a programme for national minorities – broadcast on Wednesdays from 20:10h – 20:40h
  - Show "Pola piu" – financed by the Italian Government – broadcast daily at 17:05, 30 minutes
- Radio Knin – FM
  - Religious programme intended for the Orthodox – broadcast on Wednesdays from 18:10h do 18:40h.

#### 4.5.1.3 HRT web

(293) In May 2008, minorities were marked on the HRT's official web portal as a separate category, so that the website provides information on the minorities in the country on a daily basis, more extensive than what is broadcast on TV and radio channels. The web content consists of video fragments and accompanying texts about current minority events, as well as more extensive information on minorities in our country.

#### 4.5.2 Fund for the Promotion of Pluralism and Diversity of Electronic Media

(294) With regard to the question of the Committee of Experts from paragraphs 193 and 200 [ECRML (2008)1; MIN-LANG (2008)27], and in accordance with the provisions of the *Electronic Media Act* (OG 122/03, 79/07 and 32/08), a Fund for the Promotion of Pluralism and Diversity of Electronic Media was established. Resources of the Fund are used to encourage the production and broadcasting of electronic media programmes of public interest at the local and regional level, and the Fund is particularly significant for:

- the exercise of the citizens' right of access to public information,
- national minorities in Croatia,
- promotion of special programmes in the areas of special state concern,
- fostering of cultural creativity,
- development of education, science and art,
- Promotion of creativity in Croatian dialects,
- raising awareness of gender equality.

Resources of the Fund are also used to encourage the recruitment of highly educated professionals in the electronic media at the local and regional level.

(295) The Electronic Media Council, pursuant to Article 57 paragraph 5 of the *Electronic Media Act*, adopted the *Ordinance on the manner and procedure of the implementation of public tenders for the co-financing of programmes from the Fund for the Promotion of Pluralism and Diversity of Electronic Media, criteria for the allocation of resources and for the monitoring of expenditure and the realisation of programmes for which resources are allocated* (OG 07/08 and 11/08). Pursuant to Article 12 of the above Ordinance, the *Decision on the manner of evaluation of tender applications for the allocation of resources from the Fund for the Promotion of Pluralism and Diversity of Electronic Media* (OG 16/08) was adopted. Public tender procedures are carried out in accordance with the above regulations, and resources are allocated and justified according to the established criteria.

(296) The first public tender for the allocation of resources from the Fund for the Promotion of Pluralism and Diversity of Electronic Media was announced on 10 May 2005, and content providers who received funds for the production of programme content intended for national minorities are:

- Radio Mrežnica (total 253,870.00 HRK)
  - programmes “Manjinski dnevnik“ (Minority Journal) and „Otvoreno za manjine“ (Openly for Minorities)
- Radio Banovina (total 253,870.00 HRK)
  - programme “Tu je moj dom“ (This is My Home)
- Hrvatski Radio Karlovac (total 253,870.00 HRK)
  - programmes “Etnos“ and ”Manjinski forum“ (Minority Forum)
- Radio Istra (total 253,870.00 HRK)
  - programme “Microfono aperto”
- Radio Stella Maris (total 103,870.00 HRK)
  - programme “Vijesti na talijanskom jeziku“ (News in Italian)
- Radio Daruvar (total 103,870.00 HRK)

- for the complete content intended for national minorities, which was entered into the tender
- Radio Đakovo (total 103,870.00 HRK)
  - for the programmes for national minorities in the areas of special state concern
- Radio Brod (total 103,870.00 HRK)
  - Programme “Etnoss”
- Radio Borovo (total 103,870.00 HRK)
  - programmes “Razgovor s povodom” (Conversation with a cause) and “ARS skala” (ARS Scale)
- BBR radio (total 103,870.00 HRK)
  - programme ”Županijska kronika“ (County Chronicles)
- Slavonski radio (total 103,870.00 HRK)
  - programme “D-funk”
- Radio Našice (total 53,870.00 HRK)
  - a programme for national minorities in the area of special state concern
- Radio Nova Gradiška (total 53,870.00 HRK)
  - program content intended for national minorities
- Radio Ogulin (total 53,870.00 HRK)
  - programmes for national minorities
- Radio Sisak (total 53,870.00 HRK)
  - programmes “Etnos” and “Fokus” about national minorities from the areas of special state concern
- Slavonija radio (total 53,870.00 HRK)
  - programme “Moj dom” (My Home)
- Media-Mix-Radio 105 (total 33,870.00 HRK)
  - programme “Kako žive Hrvati u slovenskom Prekmurju” (Life of Croats in Slovenian Prekmurje)
- Radio Grubišno Polje (total 18,870.00 HRK)
  - programmes about national minorities
- Radio Dunav (total 8,870.00 HRK)
  - a programme about national minorities
- TV Nova (total 897,058.00 HRK)
  - Programmes “Neobavezni smjer” (Optional Direction) and “Comunita”
- Kanal RI (total 897,058.00 HRK)
  - programmes “Vijesti“ (News), “Tribine” (Grandstands), “Povećalo” (Magnifier), “Planet RI” and “Mozaik”
- Vinkovačka televizija (total 547,058.00 HRK)
  - programmes “Dijalog“, “Pressica”, “Suživot” (Coexistence)
- TV Moslavina (total 547,058.00 HRK)
  - programme “Manjine u medijima“ (Minorities in the Media)
- KA Vision (total 247,058.00 HRK)
  - programme “Iver” (Sliver)

(297) In 2006, the tender for the allocation of resources from the Fund for the Promotion of Pluralism and Diversity of Electronic Media was announced on 1 February 2006, and the decision on the allocation of resources was adopted on 12 May 2006. For the production of programmes intended for national minorities, resources were allocated to the following content providers:

- Krugoval Garešnica (total 25,000.00 HRK)
  - programme “Konac” (Thread)
- Radio Bljesak (total 50,000.00 HRK)
  - programme “I mi smo tu” (We Are Here, Too)
- Radio Brod (total 93,520.00 HRK)
  - programme “Ej Romale”
- Radio Daruvar (total 93,250.00 HRK)
  - programmes for the Czech national minority
- Radio Dunav (total 25,000.00 HRK)
  - programme “Iskon” (Origin)
- Radio Labin (total 50,000.00 HRK)
  - programme “Setimanale alboneze”
- Radio Mrežnica (total 191,744.00 HRK)
  - programme “Manjinski dnevnik“ (Minority Journal)
- Radio Našice (total 50,000.00 HRK)
  - programme in Slovak
- Radio Pitomača (total 93,520.00 HRK)
  - programme “Etničke skupine i mi” (Ethnic Groups and Us)
- Radio postaja Drniš (total 50,000.00 HRK)
  - programme “Kod kuće” (At Home)
- Radio Station Nova Gradiška (total 25,000.00 HRK)
  - programme “Mostovi povjerenja” (Bridges of Trust)
- Radio Rovinj (total 93,520.00 HRK)
  - programme Rovigno Canta
- Radio Eurostar (total 93,520.00 HRK)
  - programme Senza Confini
- Radio Stella Maris (total 50,000.00 HRK)
  - programme “Vijesti na talijanskom jeziku“ (News in Italian)
- Radio Zona Buzet (total 25,000.00 HRK)
  - programme Domaće u 3 (Domestic at 3)
- TV Nova (total 452,700.00 HRK)
  - programmes “Neobavezni smjer” (Optional Direction) and “Comunita”

(298) In 2007, the tender for the allocation of resources from the Fund for the Promotion of Pluralism and Diversity of Electronic Media was announced on 18 January 2007, and the decision on the allocation of resources was adopted on 14 May 2007. For the production of programmes intended for national minorities, resources were allocated to the following content providers:

- Arting d.o.o. - Radio Rovinj (total 201,015.00 HRK)
  - programme “Zajedno” (Together)
- CIK dr. Božo Milanović - Radio Istra (total 201,015.00 HRK)
  - programme “Microfono aperto”
- Difuzija d.o.o. - Radio Dunav (total 70,988.00 HRK)
  - programmes “Etnos” and “Iskon”
- DTR d.o.o. - Radio Zona Buzet (total 120,371.00 HRK)
  - programme Domaće u 3 (Domestic at 3)
- Hilaris d.o.o. - Radio Imotski (total 120,371.00 HRK)
  - programme “Zajedno” (Together)
- Hrvatski radio Gospić (total 120,371.00 HRK)

- programme “Povratak i obnova” (Return and Reconstruction)
- Hrvatski radio Karlovac (total 201,015.00 HRK)
  - programme ”Manjinski forum“ (Minority Forum)
- Hrvatski radio Otočac (total 120,371.00 HRK)
  - programme “Sastanak s razlogom“ (Meeting for a Reason)
- Hrvatski radio Valpovština (total 120,371.00 HRK)
  - programme “Različitosti – most povezivanja“ (Differences – Bridge of Cohesion)
- Hrvatski radio Vukovar (total 120,371.00 HRK)
  - programmes “Domovina u srcu” (Homeland in the Heart) and “Povratnički radio” (Returnees’ Radio)
- Infantinfo d.o.o. – Radio Maestral (total 70,988.00 HRK)
  - programme “U manjini“ (In the Minority)
- Jadranka d.d. – Radio Mali Lošinj (total 70,988.00 HRK)
  - programme of the Italian community
- Krugoval Garešnica (total 50,314.00 HRK)
  - programme “Konac” (Thread)
- Novi radio Đakovo (total 120,371.00 HRK)
  - programme “Most” (Bridge)
- Petrinjski radio (total 70,988.00 HRK)
  - programme “Zajedno” (Together)
- Radio 052 (total 50,314.00 HRK)
  - programme “Vlak iz Pazina” (Train from Pazin)
- Radio Banovina (total 120,371.00 HRK)
  - programme “Tu je moj dom“ (This is my home)
- Radio Baranja (total 70,988.00 HRK)
  - a programme for the national minority in Hungarian
- Radio Daruvar (total 120,371.00 HRK)
  - programmes in Czech
- Radio Grubišno Polje (total 34,755.00 HRK)
  - programme “Češka reč” (Czech word)
- Radio Labin (total 120,371.00 HRK)
  - programme “Senttimenale alboneze”
- Radio Mrežnica (total 201,015.00 HRK)
  - programmes “RM Report”, “Manjinski dnevnik“ (Minority Journal) and „Otvoreno o manjinama“ (Openly on Minorities)
- Radio Pitomača (total 70,988.00 HRK)
  - programme “Etničke skupine i mi” (Ethnic Groups and Us)
- Radio postaja Drniš (total 120,371.00 HRK)
  - programme “Kod kuće” (At Home)
- Radio postaja Nova Gradiška (total 34,755.00 HRK)
  - programme “Mostovi povjerenja” (Bridges of Trust)
- Radio postaja Novska (total 70,988.00 HRK)
  - programme “Otvoreni studio“ (Open Studio)
- Radio Sisak (total 201,015.00 HRK)
  - programme “Manjinski parlamentarac” (Minority Parliamentarian)
- Radio Star TV d.o.o. - Radio Eurostar (total 201,015.00 HRK)
  - programme Senza Confini
- Slavonska posavina d.o.o. - Radio Slavonia (total 201,015.00 HRK)

- programmes “Moj dom” (My Home) and “Općinarnica” (≈ Municipal Issues)
- Studio Minsk d.o.o. - Radio Stella Maris (total 70.988.00 HRK)
  - programme “Svojezične obavijesti” (All-Language Information)
- Ultravox d.o.o. – Gradski radio Čakovec (total 120,371.00 HRK)
  - programme “Kako žele živjeti Romi” (How Roma Want to Live)
- VFM radio (total 50,314.00 HRK)
  - programme “Oko nas” (Around Us)
- Kanal RI (total 899,945.00 HRK)
  - programme “Mozaik „
- KA-Vision d.o.o. – TV 4 Rivers (total 358,118.00 HRK)
  - programme “Iver” (Sliver)
- Nezavisna televizija Kutina (total 650,307.00 HRK)
  - programme “Zbivalica” (≈ Events)
- TV Nova Pula (total 899,945.00 HRK)
  - programme “Comunità”
- Vinkovačka televizija (total 899,945.00 HRK)
  - programme “Suživot” (Coexistence)

(299) On 17 June 2008, the decision was adopted on the allocation of resources from the Fund for the Promotion of Pluralism and Diversity of Electronic Media, on the basis of a public tender. For the promotion of programmes intended for national minorities, resources were allocated to the following content providers:

- CIK dr. Božo Milanović – Radio Istra (total 170,810. HRK)
  - programme “Microfono aperto”
- Difuzija d.o.o. – Radio Dunav (total 103,162. HRK)
  - programme “Spektar” (Spectrum)
- Hrvatski radio – Radio Gospić (total 169,119.00 HRK)
  - programme “Povratak i obnova” (Return and Reconstruction)
- Hrvatski radio Valpovština (total 133,604.0 HRK)
  - programme “Različitosti – most povezivanja“ (Differences – Bridge of Cohesion)
- Hrvatski radio Vukovar (total 189,413.28 HRK)
  - a programme in Ruthenian and Belarusian
- Ilok ton d.o.o. – Radio Ilok (total 103,162.59 HRK)
  - programmes in Slovak
- Media-Mix-Radio 105 (total 103,162.59 HRK)
  - a programme for Roma
- Novi radio Đakovo (total 123,456.87 HRK)
  - programme “Most” (Bridge)
- Novi radio Zadar (total 179,266.14 HRK)
  - a programme “Machiato na Kalelarga” (Machiato in the Kalelarga)
- Radio Banovina (total 147,133.53 HRK)
  - programme “Tu je moj dom“ (This is My Home)
- Radio Baranja (total 130,221.63 HRK)
  - a programme in Hungarian
- Radio Bljesak (total 148,824.72 HRK)
  - programme “I mi smo tu” (We Are Here, Too)
- Radio Daruvar (total 142,059.96 HRK)
  - programme “Češki jezik” (The Czech Language)

- Radio Drava (total 121,765.68 HRK)
  - programme “Glas manjina” (The Voice of Minorities)
- Radio Labin (total 130,221.63 HRK)
  - programme “Settimanell albanese”
- Radio Pitomača (total 116,692.11 HRK)
  - programme “Manjinska potpora” (Minority Support)
- Radio Sisak (total 138,677.58 HRK)
  - programme “Manjinski parlamentarac” (Minority Parliamentarian)
- Rapsodija d.o.o. – Radio Borovo (total 77,794.74 HRK)
  - programme “Baština” (Heritage)
- S-Tel d.o.o. – Radio Quirinus (total 126,839.25 HRK)
  - programme “Bakina škrinjica” (Grandmother’s Chest)
- KA-Vision d.o.o. – Televizija 4 rijeke (total 755,313.60 HRK)
  - programme “Iver” (Sliver)
- Nezavisna istarska televizija (total 783,637.86 HRK)
  - programme “Panorama regionale”
- Televizija Primorja i Gorskog Kotara (total 925,259.16 HRK)
  - programme “Barufe pod urun”
- Televizija Slavonije i Baranje (total 859,169.22 HRK)
  - programme “Dravotaj”
- TV Nova (total 651,457.98 HRK)
  - programme “Comunità”
- Varaždinska Televizija (total 1,265,150.28 HRK)
  - programme “Svijet Roma” (The Roma World)
- Vinkovačka televizija (total 802,520.70 HRK)
  - programme “Suživot” (Coexistence)

(300) It should be noted that the above mentioned resources were not allocated exclusively for the programmes for national minorities, but rather for all the programmes specified in the tender application of each content provider.

#### 4.6 Article 12. – Cultural activities and institutions

*Paragraph 1:*

*subparagraph a)*

*subparagraph f)*

*subparagraph g)*

(301) From the State Budget of the Republic of Croatia, through the Council for National Minorities, financial support is provided for 19 different programmes of national minorities, in particular the Italian, Czech, Slovak, Hungarian, Ruthenian, Ukrainian and Serbian national minorities, among others. Pursuant to the Council Decision and the established criteria, the programmes financed are those of the associations and institutions of national minorities in the field of publicity, publishing, amateur culture, cultural events, programmes arising from bilateral contracts and agreements, as well as programmes securing preconditions for the exercise of cultural autonomy of national minorities.

(302) In the past period, funding continued to be provided for members of the **Italian national minority** for their information programme consisting of the journal “La voce del popolo”,

twice-monthly magazine "Panorama", children's monthly "Arcobaleno", and literary magazine "La batana" published by the newspaper publishing institution "Edit" from Rijeka. In 2009, resources in the amount of 6,296 HRK were allocated for the information programmes.

- (303) In the past period, funding continued to be provided for members of the **Czech national minority**, for the weekly magazine "Jednota", children's monthly "Dětský koutek" and the annuals "Prehled" and "Češsky lidovy calendar", as well as several book titles, published by newspaper publishing institution "Jednota" from Daruvar. In 2009, resources in the amount of 2,112,000 HRK were allocated for the information and publishing programmes.
- (304) In the past period, funding continued to be provided for members of the **Slovak national minority**, for the information programme consisting in the publication of the monthly "Pramen", published by the Union of Slovaks from Nasice. Several book titles were published within the publishing programme. In 2009, resources in the amount of 270,000 HRK were allocated for the information and publishing programmes.
- (305) For members of the **Hungarian national minority**, in addition to the weekly "Uj Magyar Kepes Ujsag", monthly "Horvatoszagi Magyar sag", children's quarterly "Barkoca" and annual "Rovatkak", published by the Democratic Community of Hungarians in Croatia from Osijek, in the past period were resources were also allocated for the Hungarian weekly "Horvathorszagi Magyar Naplo", monthly "Hagyatek", children's magazine "Scivarvany" and annual "Evkonyv", published by the Union of Hungarian Associations from Zagreb. The above mentioned Hungarian associations published two book titles a year. In 2009, resources in the amount of 2,062,000 HRK were allocated for the information and publishing programmes.
- (306) For members of the **Ruthenian and Ukrainian national minorities**, funding continued to be provided for the quarterly magazine "Nova Dumka" and the semi-annual children's magazine "Vjenčic", published by the Union of Ruthenians and Ukrainians of the Republic of Croatia, from Vukovar. Another periodical in Ukrainian was financed in the past period, "Naša gazeta", published by the Ukrainian Culture Society from Zagreb. In 2009, resources in the amount of 540,000 HRK were allocated for the information and publishing programmes.
- (307) For members of the **Serbian national minority**, funding continued to be provided for the weekly "Novosti", published by the Serbian National Council, Zagreb, monthly "Identitet", published by the Serbian Democratic Forum, Zagreb, twice-monthly magazine "Prosvjeta" and children's monthly "Bijela pčela", published by the Serbian Cultural Society "Prosvjeta" Zagreb. Within the publishing programme, several book titles came out in the specified period. In 2009, resources in the amount of 6,680,000 HRK were allocated for the information and publishing programmes.
- (308) Obligations under Article 12 of the Charter with regard to cultural activities and institutions are fulfilled by the Ministry of Culture by securing significant financial resources for various cultural activities of national minorities. In the spirit of the Charter, special attention is paid first of all to the written and spoken word in the languages and scripts of national minorities. Significant funds are thus allocated for libraries. Furthermore, the Ministry of Culture allocates substantial funds for archives, encourages and supports the printing of books and magazines in minority languages, promotes performing arts and the overall efforts to cultivate and preserve other cultural features of national minorities.

#### 4.6.1 Libraries

(309) The Libraries Act (OG 105/97, 5/98 and 104/00) is the legal framework for librarianship activities. Librarianship activities for the needs of national minorities in the Republic of Croatia are performed by the central libraries of the national minorities, which, among others, include:

- Town Library Beli Manastir – Central Library of the Hungarians
- Community Library Daruvar – Central Library of the Czechs
- Croatian National Library Našice – Central Library of the Slovaks
- Town Library Pula – Central Library of the Italians
- Zagreb City Libraries – Central Library of the Ruthenians and Ukrainians
- Serbian Cultural Society "Prosvjeta" – Central Library of the Serbs

(310) The Ministry of Culture provides funds for the salaries of employees in the central libraries of the national minorities, for the use of books and other library inventory, for programmes and computerisation of the central libraries of the national minorities, and for panels, lectures and exhibitions. Special importance is given to interlibrary loan, which makes library services accessible to minority members living outside the seat of the central library.

(311) By way of regular annual calls for proposals of programmes of public needs in culture, the Ministry of Culture co-finances the acquisition of books and other library inventory for public libraries, as well as various activities and events related to librarianship activities, exhibitions and development programs, including workshops, seminars and professional training of librarians. All that has a positive impact on the supply of books in minority languages, as well as the participation of national minority members in the aforementioned programmes and activities in the libraries.

(312) Although the Ministry of Culture approves funding for libraries, press and book publishing, as well as investments and computerisation of various minority institutions, the information specified below refers to those regional or minority languages in the Republic of Croatia which are covered by Part III of the *Charter*.

**Table 15 - Overview of approved funds for librarianship in 2006**

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY / HOLDER	MINORITY	PROGRAMME	AMOUNT
Libraries			
Central Library of the Hungarians - Town Library, Beli Manastir	Hungarians	Funding for salaries and current expenses of the central library	126,538.24
Central Library of the Czechs – National Library "Petar Preradović", Bjelovar	Czechs	Funding for salaries and current expenses of the central library	130,512.99
Central Library of the Italians - Town Library, Pula	Italians	Funding for salaries and current expenses of the central library	128,088.76
Central Library of the Slovaks - Croatian National Library,	Slovaks	Funding for salaries and current expenses of the	134,605.29

Našice		central library	
Central Library of the Ruthenians and Ukrainians - Zagreb City Libraries, Zagreb	Ruthenians and Ukrainians	Funding for salaries and current expenses of the central library	167,689.20
Central Library of the Serbs - Serbian Cultural Society "Prosvjeta"	Serbs	Funding for salaries and current expenses of the central library	247,691.42

**Table 16 - Overview of approved funds for press and book publishing in 2006**

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY / HOLDER	MINORITY	PROGRAMME	AMOUNT
<b>Press publishing activities</b>			
Publishing house "Edit", Rijeka	Italians	Publishing in Italian	1,070,000.00
<b>Support for book publishing</b>			
Slovak Heritage Foundation, Zagreb	Slovaks	Ferdinand Takač: I vas ćemo progoniti (You Too Shall be Persecuted)	10,000.00
Prosvjeta d.o.o., Zagreb	Serbs	Rajko Đurić: Povijest Roma (The History of Roma)	20,000.00
Serbian Cultural Society "Prosvjeta", Zagreb	Serbs	Milovan Matić: Milutin Tesla 1819-1879	15,000,00
Serbian Cultural Society "Prosvjeta", Zagreb	Serbs	Turković-Munitić-Ajanović: Bordo	30,000.00
<b>State purchase of books</b>			
Society of Hungarian Scientists and Artists in Croatia, Zagreb	Hungarians	B. Ivan: Julijanska akcija u Slavoniji... početkom 20. st. (Julian Action in Slavonia... in the Early 20 <sup>th</sup> Ct.)	3,000,00
Slovak Heritage Foundation, Zagreb	Slovaks	F. Takač: Uzničke uspomene Hrvata isusovaca za komunizma u Slovačkoj (The Memories of Croatian Jesuit Uzniks During Communism in Slovakia)	4,200.00
Slovak Heritage Foundation, Zagreb	Slovaks	Kučerova Kvetoslava: Slovaci u Hrvatskoj (Slovaks in Croatia)	5.750,00
Prosvjeta d.o.o., Zagreb	Serbs	Krleža Miroslav: Razgovori i svjedočanstva (Interviews and Testimonies)	16,500.00
Serbian Cultural Society "Prosvjeta", Zagreb	Serbs	Branko Čolović: Manastir Krka (Monastery Krka)	15,000.00

Serbian Cultural Society "Prosvjeta", Zagreb	Serbs	Dugandžija Nikola: Od nacije do reakcije (From Nation to Reaction)	10,000,00
Serbian Cultural Society "Prosvjeta", Zagreb	Serbs	Group of authors: B... znači bordo B... is for bordo	15,000.00
Serbian Cultural Society "Prosvjeta", Zagreb	Serbs	Josip Horvat: Pobuna omladine 1911-1914. (Youth Rebellion 1911-1914)	15,000.00
Serbian Cultural Society "Prosvjeta", Zagreb	Serbs	Mraović Simo: Nula nula (Zero Zeroes)	5,000.00
Croatian-Italian Cultural Association "Dante Alighieri", Split	Italians	Garanjin Ivan Luka: O odgoju, obrazovanju i javnoj nastavi (On Education and Public Teaching)	3,000.00

**Table 17 - Investments and computerisation of cultural institutions in 2006**

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY / HOLDER	MINORITY	PROGRAMME	AMOUNT
Investment support			
Serbian Cultural Society "Prosvjeta", Zagreb	Serbs	Adaptation and setup of the library	150,000.00
Croatian-Hungarian Cultural Centre, Bilje	Hungarians	Acquisition of equipment	60,000.00
Central Library of the Slovaks - Croatian National Library, Našice	Slovaks	Equipment of the Slovak section	80,000.00
Computerisation of cultural institutions			
Serbian Cultural Society "Prosvjeta", Zagreb	Serbs	Computerisation programme of the SCS "Prosvjeta"	7,259.00
Croatian-Hungarian Cultural Centre, Bilje	Hungarians	Acquisition of IT equipment	5,612,00
Češka beseda, Daruvar – Franta Burian Library, Daruvar	Czechs	Acquisition of IT equipment for the Franta Burian Library of the	5,612.00
<b>TOTAL ACTIVITIES</b>			

**Table 18 – Overview of approved funds for librarianship in 2007**

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY / HOLDER	MINORITY	PROGRAMME	AMOUNT
<b>Libraries</b>			
Central Library of the Hungarians - Town Library, Beli Manastir	Hungarians	Funding for salaries and current expenses of the central library	135,572.84
Central Library of the Czechs - Community Library, Daruvar	Czechs	Funding for salaries and current expenses of the central library	139,713.16
Central Library of the Italians - Town Library, Pula	Italians	Funding for salaries and current expenses of the central library	137,219.36
Central Library of the Slovaks - Croatian National Library, Našice	Slovaks	Funding for salaries and current expenses of the central library	144,716.62
Central Library of the Ruthenians and Ukrainians - Zagreb City Libraries, Zagreb	Ruthenians and Ukrainians	Funding for salaries and current expenses of the central library	175,575.20
Central Library of the Serbs - Serbian Cultural Society "Prosvjeta"	Serbs	Funding for salaries and current expenses of the central library	274,932.90

**Table 19 - Overview of approved funds for press and book publishing in 2007**

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY / HOLDER	MINORITY	PROGRAMME	AMOUNT
<b>Press publishing activities</b>			
Publishing house "Edit", Rijeka	Italians	Publishing in Italian	1,000,000.00
<b>Support for book publishing</b>			
Prosvjeta d.o.o., Zagreb	Serbs	Heise Jens: ABC Freuda (The ABC of Freud)	10,000.00
Community of Serbs, Rijeka	Serbs	Jovan Savičin Prica: Cvijet srce i sunce (Flower, heart and sun)	5,000.00
<b>State purchase of books</b>			
Prosvjeta d.o.o., Zagreb	Serbs	Jenas Heise: ABC Freuda (The ABC of Freud)	11,000.00
Prosvjeta d.o.o., Zagreb	Serbs	T. P. Ribkin: Emigranti iz Rusije u kulturnom i znanstvenom životu Zagreba (Emigrants from Russia in the Cultural and Scientific Life of Zagreb)	13,000.00
Serbian Cultural Society "Prosvjeta", Zagreb	Serbs	Aleksandra Kučeković: Manastir Orahovica	20,000.00

		(Monastery Orahovica)	
Serbian Cultural Society “Prosvjeta”, Zagreb	Serbs	Dragan Božić: Uz Kupu (Along the Kupa River)	12,000.00
Serbian Cultural Society “Prosvjeta”, Zagreb	Serbs	Jovan Mirić: Sumrak intelekta (Twilight of the Intellect)	18,000.00
Serbian Cultural Society “Prosvjeta”, Zagreb	Serbs	Milan Radeka: Gornja Krajina-Karlovačko vladičanstvo (Upper Krajina- The Karlovac Eparchy)	7,500.00
Serbian Cultural Society “Prosvjeta”, Zagreb	Serbs	Nenad S. Kosović: Naš trenutak istine (Our Moment of Truth)	12,000.00
Serbian Cultural Society “Prosvjeta”, Zagreb	Serbs	Grigor Vitez: Šaka Čičaka (A Handfull of Thistles)	16,000.00
Serbian Cultural Society “Prosvjeta”, Zagreb	Serbs	Vladimir Pavić: Ovaj život (This Life)	10,000.00
Community of Italians, Rijeka - Cominta'degli Italiani di Fiume, Rijeka	Italians	Rikardo Staraj i Anton Papp: Slike sjećanja i života (Pictures of Memories and Life)	3,000.00
<b>Literary events</b>			
Central library of the Italian national minority in Croatia - Town Library, Pula	Italians	Literary award “Mate Balota“	10,000.00
Croatian Writers Society - Branch Rijeka	Italians	Italian poetry evening	3,000.00

**Table 20 – Investments and computerisation of cultural institutions in 2007**

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY / HOLDER	MINORITY	PROGRAMME	AMOUNT
<b>Investment support</b>			
Serbian Cultural Society “Prosvjeta”, Zagreb	Serbs	Adaptation of the library	150,000.00
Croatian-Hungarian Cultural Centre Bilje	Hungarians	Reconstruction of the Centre	50,000.00
<b>Computerisation of cultural institutions</b>			
Serbian Cultural Society “Prosvjeta”, Zagreb	Serbs	Acquisition of a portable notebook computer	8,000.00
Serbian Cultural Society “Prosvjeta”, Zagreb	Serbs	PC for the press desk	6,000.00
Central library of the Italian national minority - Town Library, Pula	Italians	Computerisation of the central library and its branches	15,000.00
Central Library of the Slovaks in Croatia - Croatian National	Slovaks	Computerisation of the library	5,000.00

Library, Našice			
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**Table 21 – Overview of approved funds for librarianship in 2008**

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY / HOLDER	MINORITY	PROGRAMME	AMOUNT
<b>Libraries</b>			
Central Library of the Hungarians - Town Library, Beli Manastir	Hungarians	Funding for salaries and current expenses of the central library	123,562.63
Central Library of the Czechs - Community Library, Daruvar	Czechs	Funding for salaries and current expenses of the central library	151,793.03
Central Library of the Italians - Town Library, Pula	Italians	Funding for salaries and current expenses of the central library	150,057.76
Central Library of the Slovaks - Croatian National Library, Našice	Slovaks	Funding for salaries and current expenses of the central library	159,224.56
Central Library of the Ruthenians and Ukrainians - Zagreb City Libraries, Zagreb	Ruthenians and Ukrainians	Funding for salaries and current expenses of the central library	181,721.60
Central Library of the Serbs - Serbian Cultural Society "Prosvjeta"	Serbs	Funding for salaries and current expenses of the central library	299,649.57

**Table 22 - Overview of approved funds for press and book publishing in 2008**

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY / HOLDER	MINORITY	PROGRAMME	AMOUNT
<b>Press publishing activities</b>			
Publishing house "Edit", Rijeka	Italians	Publishing in Italian	4,300,000.00
<b>Support for book publishing</b>			
Slovak Heritage Foundation, Zagreb	Slovaks	Ferdinand Takač: Životopis slovačkog Hrvata (Biography of a Slovakian Croat)	7,000.00
Serbian National Council, Zagreb	Serbs	Filip Škiljan: Znameniti Srbi, I.dio (Prominent Serbs, Part I)	10,000.00
Community of Italians, Rijeka - Cominta'degli Italiani di Fiume, Rijeka	Italians	Osvaldo Ramous: Il cavallio di cartapesta	10,000.00
<b>State purchase of books</b>			
Serbian Cultural Society "Prosvjeta", Zagreb	Serbs	Mladen Blažević: Tragovi goveda (Traces of Cattle)	8,000.00
Serbian Cultural Society "Prosvjeta", Zagreb	Serbs	Radovan Kovačević: Čuvari jarbola (Guardians of the	20,000.00

		Mast)	
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**Table 23 – Investments and computerisation of cultural institutions in 2008**

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY / HOLDER	MINORITY	PROGRAMME	AMOUNT
<b>Investment support</b>			
Serbian Cultural Society “Prosvjeta”, Zagreb	Serbs	Adaptation of the library	250,000.00
Croatian-Hungarian Cultural Centre Bilje	Hungarians	Reconstruction of the Centre	100,000.00
Slovak Heritage Foundation Miljevci, Nova Bukovica	Slovaks	Construction of the Croatian-Slovak house	200,000.00
<b>Computerisation of cultural institutions</b>			
Serbian Cultural Society “Prosvjeta”, Zagreb	Serbs	Acquisition of a portable computer	10,000.00
Croatian-Hungarian Cultural Centre, Bilje	Hungarians	Computerisation of the cultural institution	10,000.00
Central Library of the Slovaks – Croatian National Library, Našice	Slovaks	Computerisation of the library	10,000.00

**Table 24 – Overview of planned funds for librarianship in 2009**

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY / HOLDER	MINORITY	PROGRAMME	AMOUNT
<b>Libraries</b>			
Central Library of the Hungarians - Town Library, Beli Manastir	Hungarians	Funding for salaries and current expenses of the central library	148,534.28
Central Library of the Czechs - Community Library, Daruvar	Czechs	Funding for salaries and current expenses of the central library	154,630.28
Central Library of the Italians - Town Library, Pula	Italians	Funding for salaries and current expenses of the central library	151,952,60
Central Library of the Slovaks - Croatian National Library, Našice	Slovaks	Funding for salaries and current expenses of the central library	161,201,64
Central Library of the Ruthenians and Ukrainians - Zagreb City Libraries, Zagreb	Ruthenians and Ukrainians	Funding for salaries and current expenses of the central library	182,980.76
Central Library of the Serbs - Serbian Cultural Society ”Prosvjeta“	Serbs	Funding for salaries and current expenses of the central library	300,822.20

**Table 25 - Overview of planned funds for press and book publishing in 2009**

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY / HOLDER	MINORITY	PROGRAMME	AMOUNT
<b>Press publishing activities</b>			
Publishing house "Edit", Rijeka	Italians	Publishing in Italian	1,300,000.00
<b>Support for book publishing</b>			
Croatian-Italian Cultural Association "Dante Alighieri", Split	Italians	Carrara Francesco (Frane): Dnevnik s putovanja (1843.-1848.) (Travel Diary (1843-1848))	10,000.00
Croatian-Italian Cultural Association "Dante Alighieri", Split	Italians	Šimunković Ljerka: Hrvatsko-talijanski jezični kontakti u Dalmaciji (Croatian-Italian Linguistic Connections in Dalmatia)	10,000.00
Slovak Heritage Foundation	Slovaks	Kučera Matuš: Hrvati i Slovaci, uzajamni politički i kulturni odnosi kroz povijest (Croats and Slovaks, Mutual Political and Cultural Relations through History)	15,000.00
<b>Literary events</b>			
Town library Umag	Italians	Forum Tomizza	30,000.00
Croatian Cultural Society "Franjo Glavinić", Rovinj	Different minorities	Meeting of minority writers in Croatia with Croatian writers	10,000.00

#### 4.6.2 Archives, museums and galleries

- (313) The *Archival Materials and Archives Act* (OG 105/97 and 64/00) is the legal framework for archival activity, and the *Museums Act* (OG 142/98) for museological activity. In carrying out archival activity, a network of 15 state archives in the Republic of Croatia processes and preserves archival materials relating to national minorities on a regular basis.
- (314) Archival activity includes the protection of archival material by way of microfilming, restoration and conservation, protective recording (photography, maps, etc.), protection of phono materials and musical heritage, state purchase of archival material, etc. The publishing activity of the archives is also significant, as well as cultural education activities (exhibitions, lectures, conferences etc.) All these aspects of archival activity apply equally and fully also to the materials related to national minorities and their activities in a particular area.
- (315) Museological and gallery activities include primarily preservation, protection and presentation of museum stocks and collections, including materials related to the work and activities of national minorities. Museums also hold exhibitions, issue publications related to their work (catalogues, collections, posters, etc), purchase materials, conduct archaeological and other research etc., both for the majority population and minority members. In addition,

pedagogical-educational activities and similar programmes are organized within the System of Museums.

- (316) Although the Ministry of Culture approves funding for libraries, press and book publishing, as well as investments and computerisation of various minority institutions, the information specified below refers to those regional or minority languages in the Republic of Croatia which are covered by Part III of the *Charter*.

**Table 26 - Overview of approved funds in 2006**

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY / HOLDER	MINORITY	PROGRAMME	AMOUNT
Museological and gallery activity			
Serbian Cultural Society "Prosvjeta", Zagreb	Serbs	Exhibition of all Tesla's diplomas in the production of the Nikola Tesla Museum, Belgrade	10,000.00

#### **4.6.3 Performing arts, amateur culture and art, visual arts, new media and film**

- (317) The Ministry of Culture uses its funds for special promotion of minority associations' activities of amateur culture and art, which include festivals and other events, acquisition and maintenance of traditional costumes and instruments, choirs, brass orchestras, publishing, marking of anniversaries, seminars, workshops etc.
- (318) The same applies to visual and audiovisual art programmes, design and architecture, other art activities, as well as the new media cultures, which include art production, one-off projects, permanent programmes, events etc.
- (319) It should be noted that, in the field of performing arts, the *Theatres Act* (OG 71/06) explicitly provides for obligatory existence of the Italian drama within the Croatian National Theatre Ivan pl. Zajc Rijeka, the resources for which, apart from those allocated from the budget of the founder – the City of Rijeka, are secured from the budget of the Ministry of Culture intended for cultural activities of national minorities.

**Table 27 - Overview of approved funds for performing arts, and amateur culture and art in 2006**

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY / HOLDER	MINORITY	PROGRAMME	AMOUNT
Drama and amateur theatre			
Croatian-Hungarian Cultural Centre, Bilje	Hungarians	Guest performances and theatre workshops	5,000.00
Music and performing arts			
Serbian Cultural Society	Serbs	Serbian Culture Days-	12,000.00

“Prosvjeta”, Zagreb		concert of the pianist Miloš Petrović	
Amateur culture and art			
County of Bjelovar-Bilogora, Bjelovar	Czechs	Harvest Festival “Dožinky“, KUD Češka beseda Veliki i Mali Zdenci	10,000.00
Croatian Musicians’ Union – branch Rijeka	All minorities	Festival of national minorities “Bogatstvo je živjeti u zajedništvu” (It is wealth to live in togetherness)	10,000.00
Serbian Cultural Society “Prosvjeta”, Subcommittee Okučani	Serbs	2nd Festival of cultural creativity of the national minorities in Western Slavonia	10,000.00

**Table 28 - Overview of approved funds for visual arts, new media and film in 2006**

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY / HOLDER	MINORITY	PROGRAMME	AMOUNT
Visual arts and monographs			
Serbian Cultural Society “Prosvjeta”, Zagreb	Serbs	150 years of Nikola Tesla - The man who invented the future	50,000.00

**Table 29 - Overview of approved funds for performing arts, and amateur culture and art in 2007**

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY / HOLDER	MINORITY	PROGRAMME	AMOUNT
Amateur culture and art			
Serbian Cultural Society “Prosvjeta”, Subcommittee Okučani	Serbs	Festival of Creativity	15,000.00
Češka beseda, Prekopakra	Czechs	Acquisition of folk costumes	7,550.00

**Table 30 - Overview of approved funds for performing arts, and amateur culture and art in 2008**

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY / HOLDER	MINORITY	PROGRAMME	AMOUNT
Drama and amateur theatre			
Serbian Cultural Society “Prosvjeta”, Zagreb	Serbs	Serbian Culture Days – guest performances of “My Home - Seven Dreams“	25,000.00
Music and performing arts			
Serbian Cultural Society	Serbs	Serbian Culture Days –	15,000.00

“Prosvjeta”, Zagreb		“Gyass band“ concert	
Amateur culture and art			
Croatian Musicians’ Union – branch Rijeka	All minorities	12. Festival of national minorities “Bogatstvo je živjeti u zajedništvu”	10,000.00

**Table 31 - Overview of planned funds for performing arts, and amateur culture and art in 2009**

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY / HOLDER	MINORITY	PROGRAMME	AMOUNT
Drama and amateur theatre			
Serbian Cultural Society “Prosvjeta”, Zagreb	Serbs	Serbian Culture Days – two guest performances	45,000.00
Croatian National Theatre Ivan pl. Zajc Rijeka: Regular activity	Italians	Italian drama (within total funding for the regular programme in 2009 – 2,350,000.00)	
Music and performing arts			
Serbian Cultural Society “Prosvjeta”, Zagreb	Serbs	Serbian Culture Days - concerts	25,000.00
Amateur culture and art			
SCS “Prosvjeta” Zagreb – Subcommittee Darda, Darda	Serbs	International Folklore Festival of National Minorities	5,000.00
Croatian Musicians’ Union – branch Rijeka	All minorities	12. Festival of national minorities “Bogatstvo je živjeti u zajedništvu”	20,000.00
Češka beseda, Prekopakra	Czechs	Publication of a monograph for the 100 year jubilee	5,000.00

#### 4.6.4 Croatian Audiovisual Centre

(320) With regard to the question of the Committee of Experts from paragraph 206 [ECRML (2008)1; MIN-LANG (2008)27], we state that the Croatian Audiovisual Centre ([www.havc.hr](http://www.havc.hr)) is a public institution founded by the Croatian Government under the *Audiovisual Activities Act* (OG 67/07) for the purpose of systematic promotion of audiovisual creativity in the Republic of Croatia. The Centre prepares and implements the *National Programme of the Promotion of Audiovisual Creativity* by encouraging, organizing and financing the preparation, development, production, distribution and display of Croatian, European and international audiovisual works.

(321) Funding for the Centre and for the implementation of the National Programme are allocated from the State Budget and from the part of the total annual gross revenue from audiovisual activities of: the Croatian Radio and Television, provider of TV channels on the national level, providers of TV channels at the regional level, operators of the cable distribution system, operators in landline and mobile telecommunications networks, Internet service providers and people who display audiovisual works in public.

(322) Information on activities, films and festivals co-financed by the Centre in the past period is provided below.

### **Feature films**

- ARMIN, directed by Ognjen Sviličić; production: Maxima Film; minority language: Bosnian.
- BUICK RIVIERA, directed by Goran Rušinović; production: Propeler Film; minority languages: Bosnian and Serbian.
- I MUST SLEEP, MY ANGEL, directed by Dean Aćimović; production: D. A. Film; minority languages: Bosnian and Serbian.
- THE LIVING AND THE DEAD, directed by Kristijan Milić; production: Mainframe Production, Porta Produkcija, Olimp, Uma; minority language: Bosnian.
- NO ONE'S SON, directed by Arsen Anton Ostojić, production: ALKA FILM; minority languages: Serbian
- STEALER OF MEMORIES, directed by Vicko Ruić; production: Filmska udruga vizija, INTERFILM; minority language: Serbian
- IT IS NOT THE END, directed by Vinko Brešan; production: INTERFILM; minority language: Serbian
- IN WONDERLAND, directed by Dean Šorak; production: INTERFILM; minority language: Bosnian
- METASTASES, directed by: Branko Schmidt; production: TELEFILM; minority language: Bosnian
- REMEMBER VUKOVAR, directed by Fadil Hadžić; production: ALKA FILM; minority language: Serbian.
- DONKEY, directed by Antonio Nuić; production: PROPELER FILM; minority language: Bosnian
- ZAGREB TALES, group of authors; production PROPELER FILM; minority language: Romany.

### **Short films:**

- WASTE, directed by Igor Mirković; production: STUDIO DIM; minority language: Romany

### **Documentaries:**

- CROATIA E(N)Den ON EARTH, directed by Oliver Sertić; production: RESTART; minority languages: Albanian, Russian.
- DEAD MAN WALKING, directed by Petar Orešković; production: NUKLEUS; minority language: Bosnian.
- FURMAN, directed by Rasim Karalić; production: VIS VIDEOSTUDIO; minority language: Bosnian
- ACROSS THE BORDER, directed by Peter Krelja; production: HFS, HRT, minority language: Bosnian

## **Film festivals:**

- JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL ZAGREB, organiser: Udruga Festival suvremenog židovskog filma Zagreb (Association Contemporary Jewish Film Festival Zagreb).

### **4.7 Article 13 – Economic and social life**

#### *Paragraph 1:*

*subparagraph a)*

*subparagraph b)*

*subparagraph c)*

(323) The Republic of Croatia reports that with regard to Article 13 of the *Charter* – Economic and social life there are no new data or changes in relation to the data submitted to the Council of Europe in Croatia's Third Report on the implementation of the *Charter*, hence we refer to the relevant paragraphs of the Third Report (pp. 48-49).

### **4.8 Article 14 – Transfrontier exchanges**

(324) From 2004 to 2008, five seminars on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities were organised in the Republic of Croatia, in cooperation between the Office for National Minorities and the Council of Europe.

(325) From 2-3 October 2006, a Round Table on the role of national minority associations in the preservation of national identity and on cross-border cooperation took place in Dubrovnik, in the organisation of the Office for National Minorities of the Croatian Government and the Central European Initiative. The meeting was held in a friendly and strong atmosphere of cooperation, with participants representing Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Macedonia, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Slovenia. The participants took part in four workshops: preservation of national minority cultures and the role of associations, cross-border cooperation of national minorities, publishing, and cross-border cooperation between ethnic minorities without a country of origin.

(326) Conclusions and recommendations were delivered to the governments of all the participating states, with a view to strengthening cross-border cooperation and preservation of cultural identity of the national minorities which form an integral part of the population of those countries. The participating countries expressed their great satisfaction with the seminar, which offered a good opportunity to exchange experiences, ideas and plans for future activities to be carried out by the participating states and representatives of national minority associations, with the goal of achieving more extensive cross-border cooperation and the preserving minority cultural identities.

(327) From 19-21 June 2008, the Office for National Minorities of the Croatian Government and the Council for National Minorities of the Republic of Croatia organised an *International Conference on Cross-Border Cooperation Between National Minorities* on the Brijuni Islands. The conference participants included representatives of state bodies and national minorities from Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia, Hungary, Romania, Slovenia and Croatia, as well as representatives of the international community, who engaged in a friendly and constructive discussion on the possibilities of improving

cooperation in the field of culture and education, media, and through bilateral and multilateral agreements. The conference participants unanimously commended the efforts of the Croatian Government to improve the rights of national minorities, and especially the forms of cooperation such as that, which make it possible for representatives of government bodies from different countries to meet, and also for minority representatives to meet with representatives from their country of origin. This also allows the representatives of state bodies and of national minorities to discuss important issues concerning the exercise of national minority rights and to promote cross-border cooperation on a partnership basis.

(328) In October 2008, the 7th World Roma Congress took place in Zagreb, under the auspices of the Croatian Government.

#### **4.8.1 Agreements and programmes of cultural cooperation signed in the period 2006-2008**

(329) Although several bilateral agreements and programmes of cultural cooperation between the Republic of Croatia and other states were signed in the specified period, the information specified below refers to those regional or minority languages in the Republic of Croatia which are covered by Part III of the *Charter*:

- **Czech Republic**
  - *Programme of Cultural Cooperation between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia and the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic for the period 2006-2008, signed in Prague on 25 April 2006, entered into force upon signature.*
- **Italy**
  - *Film Co-Production Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Government of the Italian Republic, signed on 10 September 2007.*
  - *Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Government of the Italian Republic on Cooperation in the Field of Culture and Education, signed in Zagreb on 16 October 2008.*
- **Hungary**
  - *Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Government of the Republic of Hungary on scientific and technological cooperation. Signed in Zagreb, on 25 January 2002, entered into force on 3 December 2002.*
  - *Protocol of the first session of the Joint Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Hungary, signed on 11 February 2005, entered into force on the same day.*
  - *Programme of Cultural Cooperation between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia and the Ministry of Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Hungary for 2006, 2007 and 2008, signed in Dubrovnik, on 9 July 2005, entered into force on 1 January 2006, termination on 31 December 2008.*
  - *Programme of Cooperation between the Ministry of Science, Education and Sport of the Republic of Croatia and the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Hungary for the Years 2006-2008, signed on 26 January 2006 in Budapest, and entered into force on the same day; termination on the 31 December 2008.*

- *Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Government of the Republic of Hungary on Cooperation in European Cultural Matters was signed on 17 May 2007*
- **Slovakia**
  - *Programme of Cultural Cooperation between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia and the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic for the period 2007 – 2010 was signed in Dubrovnik on 10 July 2007. – 2010.*
- **Ukraine**
  - *Programme of Cultural Cooperation between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia and the Ministry of Culture and Arts of Ukraine for the Period 2008-2010, signed in Prague on 8 September 2008.*
  - *Programme of Cultural Cooperation between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia and the Ministry of Culture and Arts of Ukraine 2008-2010, signed in Prague on 8 September 2008. The program envisages mutual observance of Culture Days. The Ukrainian Culture Days in the Republic of Croatia will be organized in 2009.*

## 5. Conclusion

- (330) There is a strong political will in the Republic of Croatia to secure protection of the right to use regional or minority languages in accordance with the provisions of the *Charter*, and this is done through regular activities of the competent state administration bodies.
- (331) The Republic of Croatia has a fully established legislative and legal framework necessary for the implementation of the *Charter* provisions related to the protection and exercise of the right to use minority languages.
- (332) For the purpose of fulfilling the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers from the previous evaluation reports, and in order to strengthen the proactive approach of the Republic of Croatia in the protection of the right to use minority languages, it should be noted that the *Action Plan for the Implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities* was adopted in 2008, which, among other things, envisaged the implementation of measures aimed at protecting minority languages, which have already been successfully implemented to a large extent. The Action Plan placed emphasis on those aspects of the protection of regional or minority languages which especially require special care of the Republic of Croatia.
- (333) With a view to overcoming certain difficulties faced by speakers of minority languages in an adequate way, the Republic of Croatia, in accordance with its objective possibilities, provides financial support from the State Budget funds for the activities of national minority associations aimed at promoting the value of the protection of minority languages. In the past period, the positive trend of significant increases in budgetary resources for the financing of programmes aimed at protection of the rights of regional or minority language speakers continued, despite all the problems arising from the global economic crisis.
- (334) On the basis of the analysis of data collected from the relevant state administration bodies, it can be stated that, in the period from 2006 to 2008, for which the 4th Periodical Report is submitted, the Republic of Croatia achieved further progress in the implementation of the programmes of protection and promotion of the right to the use of regional or minority languages protected pursuant to the provisions of the *Charter*.
- (335) The Republic of Croatia will continue in the coming period with the implementation of the programmes of protection and promotion of the rights of minority language speakers, in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers contained in the evaluation report by the Committee of Experts of the Council of Europe.