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Addendum 2

EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES

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

Czech Republic

***Replies to the Comments/questions
submitted to the Government of the Czech Republic
regarding its Initial Periodical Report***

Supplementary answers to the First Periodical Report of the Czech Republic on the Fulfilment of Obligations Arising from the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

Question No. 1. Please inform the Committee of Experts if Czech legislation designates Slovak, Polish, German and Romani as regional or minority languages in recognition of them as an expression of cultural wealth.

As noted in the First Periodical Report of the Czech Republic on the Fulfilment of Obligations Arising from the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (hereinafter the “Report”), the relevant standards relating to the fulfilment of the obligations included in the Charter are international treaties to which the Czech Republic is a party, including bilateral agreements with neighbouring states. According to Article 10 of the Constitution, promulgated international agreements, the ratification of which has been approved by the Parliament and which are binding on the Czech Republic, shall constitute a part of the legal order; should an international agreement make a provision contrary to a law, the international agreement shall be applied. Therefore, with the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages being a part of Czech law, no further regulation of the position of regional and minority languages in the national legislation is required.

Instead of listing each language (Slovak, Polish, German or Romani), the national legislation uses the expression “languages of members of national minorities which have been living traditionally for a long time in the territory of the Czech Republic”. In this respect, see e.g. Section 2(12) of Act No. 273/2001 Coll., the “Minorities Act”, which stipulates the following:

“(2) The State shall create appropriate conditions for the preservation and development of culture, traditions and languages of members of national minorities which have been living traditionally for a long time in the territory of the Czech Republic;”

Question No. 2. Please provide more information on the historical presence of Slovak, Polish, German and Romani. For example, since approximately when (decade) have these languages been spoken in the Czech Republic?

The Slovak language as the official language has been used actively in the territory of the current Czech Republic since the moment of codification of this language (in 1843). Before that date, it had been considered as a dialect of the Czech language.

Polish has been used in the territory of the Czech Republic since the 10th century. The Polish language has kept a strong position in border regions (namely the Těšín region).

German has been spoken in the territory of the Czech Republic since the 13th century. At the time of resettlement of the German population (1945-1948), the German language was the mother tongue of approximately 2.5 million inhabitants. The number of German-speaking inhabitants decreased considerably after the resettlement:

Census in:	Number of inhabitants of German nationality
1930	3,150,000
1950	160,000
	...
2001	39,238

The presence of the Roma and the Roma language dates back to the 14th century. Mainly the following dialects of the Roma language have been in use: Czech-Moravian, Slovak,

Hungarian, Olah – spoken by the Roma from Walachia and Moldavia, and the Sinti dialect of the German Roma. More than 95 percent of the Roma, Czech citizens living in the Czech Republic, moved to the Czech Lands from Slovakia after the Second World War or are descendants of these Romany migrants.

Question No. 3. According to the opinion of the Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities of 2005 with regard to the Czech Republic (ACFC/OP/II(2006)005), there are also other groups represented by national minority councils. These are Bulgarians, Croats, Hungarians, Ruthenians, Russians, Greeks, Ukrainians, Serbs and Jews. Please inform the Committee of Experts whether their languages are traditionally spoken in the Czech Republic and if so, by how many people and in which geographical area.

The Bulgarian migration in the territory of the current Czech Republic dates back to the end of World War I. Most of these immigrants were, settled mainly in bigger cities (Prague, Brno, Ostrava). A further migration wave occurred at the time of the new settlement of the border regions (1946-1948). According to the 2001 population census, there are 4,363 persons living in the Czech Republic, mainly in Prague, Brno, Ostrava, Karlovy Vary, Kladno, Ústí nad Labem, Děčín and Havířov, who claim Bulgarian nationality.

The Croats (called Moravian Croats) began settling in Southern Moravia in the 16th and the 17th century to escape from the Ottoman occupation. They settled mostly around Mikulov. Due to natural assimilation, only three villages with a sizable Croatian community persisted until the 20th century: Nový Přerov, Dobré Pole and the largest of them, Jevišovka (formerly Frélichov). In 1948, the Communist government decided to disperse the Croatian population in Northern and Central Moravia. According to the 2001 census, 1,585 persons claimed Croatian nationality. Most members of younger generations do not speak Croatian.

According to the 2001 population census, 14,672 persons living in the Czech Republic claimed Hungarian national origin. However, the estimate of representatives of this minority is higher (close to 19 - 20,000). The Hungarians lived in the territory of the current Czech Republic throughout the existence of the Habsburg monarchy, mostly as government employees. A significant number of Hungarians arrived to the Czech lands after World War II. Members of the Hungarian minority live scattered throughout the territory of the Czech Republic; most of them live in the Northern Bohemian Region, in the Moravian – Silesian Region and in Prague, followed by Pilsen, Eastern Bohemian, Southern Moravian and Southern Bohemian Regions.

According to the 2001 population census, there are 1,109 persons living in the Czech Republic who claim the Ruthenian national origin. According to estimates of this minority, there is much more of them (approximately 10,000 persons). The Ruthenians live in a number of regions; most of them live in Prague, in Northern Bohemia and Northern Moravia, but can be traced to Central and Southern Moravia. The Ruthenian minority was formed by people from East Slovakia and Ruthenia who moved to the Czech Lands after the establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic in 1918 and after the Second World War. Use of the Ruthenian language is subject to natural assimilation and its presence in the Czech environment has been strengthened by the arrival of migrant workers after 1989.

According to the 2001 population census, there are 12,369 persons of Russian national origin living in the Czech Republic. However, representatives of the Russian minority estimate this number at 16,000 – 20,000 persons. Members of the Russian minority living in the Czech Republic are scattered throughout its territory, which a larger concentration in Prague, Karlovy Vary, Brno and other major cities. The Russian minority stabilized in the Czech

Lands in the 1920's, when the country received a wave of political emigrants from the Soviet Union. The last, most numerous waves arrived after the dissolution of the USSR.

According to the 2001 population census, 3,219 persons living in the Czech Republic claim Greek national origin; the Greek community estimates that it has up to 7,000 members. The Greek community is settled in the following cities: Prague, Brno, Ostrava, Jeseník, Krnov, Třinec, Karviná, Šumperk, Vrbno pod Pradědem, Havířov and Bohumín. Less numerous Greek communities live in other cities (Jablonec nad Nisou, Liberec, Hradec Králové, Jihlava, Vyškov, Olomouc, Strážnice, Znojmo, Mikulov). The presence of the Greek community in the Czech Republic results namely from the arrival of political emigrants during the civil war in Greece in 1946-1949. According to the 2001 population census, 22,112 persons living in the Czech Republic claim Ukrainian national origin. According to the estimates by the minority, this number is higher. Similarly to the Russian minority, the "historical" part accounts for some 10,000 persons; the new immigration wave is estimated at about 15,000 to 20,000 persons (the number of foreign workers is estimated at some 50,000). The main settlement centres include Prague, Karlovy Vary, Děčín, Brno, Přerov and Ostrava. The level of use of the language is the same as in case of the Ruthenians, i.e. resulting from the new wave of migrant workers arriving in the Czech Republic.

According to the 2001 population census, 1,801 citizens of the Czech Republic claim Serbian national origin. The estimates of the minority indicate that there are some 10,000 to 12,000 Serbians living in the Czech Republic. Members of the Serbian minority are scattered throughout the territory of the Czech Republic, mostly in big cities like Prague, Brno, Ostrava, Liberec, Most and others. A special place among less numerous minorities belongs to the Jewish community; its members living in the Czech Republic do not define themselves as a national minority but as a religious and cultural community (therefore, the census does not classify Jews as a national minority). Nevertheless, liberally oriented civic associations of members of the Jewish community participate in programmes of support of activities of members of various national minorities, particularly in multicultural education. Activities of the Jewish community in the field of museums and galleries are supported by grant programmes of the Ministry of Culture. The Jewish community participates in the activities of the Government Council for National Minorities through its representative with a permanent guest status.

Question No. 4. Relating to the census of 2001, please provide more information concerning the main speaking areas of Slovak, Polish, German and Romani e.g. by indicating the ten municipalities with the highest density of speakers. If possible, the Committee of Experts kindly asks you to do the same for all other regional or minority languages in the Czech Republic, to the extent that the answer to Question no. 3 indicates that there are such.

According to the 2001 population census, there were some 193,190 citizens of Slovak national origin living in the Czech Republic as of 1 March 2001. At the time of the 1991 census (still in the common state – the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic), their number reached about 314,000. Most Slovaks live in the Moravian-Silesian Region (42,357), in Ústecký Region (21,172), Southern Moravian Region (15,452), Central Bohemian Region (14,191), Karlovarský Region (13,655) and in Prague (17,406). All those living in the above areas are Slovak re-emigrants from Romania, Hungary and Transcarpathian Ukraine who had settled in the border regions after 1945, and their descendants. Slovak migration to Ostrava, Karviná, Prague and other Czech cities was comprised mostly of construction workers. A "public servant" migration wave – - the federal administration, the communist party apparatus, the army, etc. – came to Prague in the 1960s and 1970s. According to the 2001

census, the municipalities with the highest percentage of inhabitants claiming Slovak national origin include Malšín, Hora Sv. Václava, Šléglov, Milotice n Opavou, Okrouhlá, Bílá, Přehýšov, Bohdalovice, Velká Štáhle, Malá Štáhle and Cetechovice. Those are small municipalities with up to 600 inhabitants.

According to the 2001 population census, 52,085 persons residing in the Czech Republic claimed the Polish national origin. Most of them - about 80% - reside in the territory of Těšín Silesia; larger number of them also live in Prague. Beside these numbers, there are some 20,000 citizens of the Republic of Poland living in the Czech Republic. According to own estimates of representatives this minority, which also include Polish citizens residing permanently in the Czech Republic and a part of citizens of the Czech Republic who claimed the Silesian national origin and who are entitled, according to the representatives of this minority, to all minority rights, there are some 70,000 persons of Polish national origin residing in the Czech Republic. According to the 2001 census, the municipalities with the highest density of the population claiming that they belong to the Polish minority include Hrádek, Milíkov, Košariska, Vendryně, Bukovec, Dolní Lomná, Bocanovice, Bystřice, Ropice, Horní Lomná and Český Těšín.

A total of 39,106 persons registered themselves as members of the German minority in the 2001 census. About 8,500 persons - almost one quarter of the total number - are registered in the two umbrella organizations of this minority. Regions with the highest numbers of citizens of the German national origin include Karlovarský, Liberecký and Moravian-Silesian Region. According to the 2001 census, the municipalities with the highest share of the population claiming that they belong to the German minority include Měděnec, Tatrovice, Horská Kvilda, Kryštofovy Hamry, Stříbrná, Horní Blatná, Mikulov, Abertamy, Josefov, Kaceřov.

A total of 11,746 persons claimed the Roma national origin at the 2001 census. According to qualified estimates, the number of Roma community members in the Czech Republic ranges between 150,000 – 300,000 persons. Most of them reside in Northern Moravia (particularly Ostrava, Karviná), Northern Bohemia (Děčín, Ústí nad Labem) and big cities (Prague, Brno). According to the 2001 census, the municipalities with the highest share of the population claiming that they belong to the Roma minority include Hvožd'any, Pětipsy, Kobylná n. Vidnavkou, Jilovice, Velké Kunětice, Vlachovice, Příčovy, Olbramovice, Kostelec, Třebešice.

Question No. 5. Has the Czech Republic adopted and taken concrete measures regarding the promotion of Slovak, Polish, German and Romani?

The ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages is, as such, one of the most significant steps towards promotion of the Slovak, Polish, German and Roma languages, together with efforts focusing on its consistent implementation at all level of public administration is (see Question 1 as regards the position of ratified international treaties). Furthermore, such steps include the exercise of powers and performance of tasks of state administration authorities in accordance with the Charter and the implementation of applicable laws and regulations (Act No. 128/2000 Coll. – the municipal system) or subsidiary measures (decrees and ordinances). An important factor of support of minority and regional languages is represented by the state aid provided as a part of grant programmes of the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education (please see the Report).

Question No. 6. Are there specific objectives or plans and does there exist a mechanism which ensures implementation?

An important role in the implementation of the Charter is played by the state administration authorities, administrative courts or the Constitutional Court. Furthermore, we have to mention the role of the Government Council for National Minorities, an advisory and initiative body of the government for issues relating to national minorities and their members. The Council is comprised of 10 members representing public administration and 18 members representing national minorities.

Question No. 7. To what extent are local, regional and other authorities involved in taking concrete measures and how do the central authorities encourage, facilitate and monitor these activities?

As regards the competences of state administration authorities at the local and the regional level relating to the minority policy, we have to mention the duty to establish committees for national minorities in municipalities with more than a 10 percent share of citizens belonging to national minorities (such committees are advisory bodies of the assembly of the municipality). Section 17(3) of the Act on Municipalities stipulates that every municipality which has, according to the last census, at least 10 percent of inhabitants claiming that they belong to other than the Czech national origin, has to establish a committee for national minorities. Analogically, Section 78(2) of the Act on Regions stipulates that a committee for national minorities has to be established in a region which has, according to the last population census, at least 5 percent of inhabitants claiming that they belong to other than the Czech national origin. The administrative supervision over the exercise of powers in the field of protection of rights of national minorities has been entrusted at all times to the relevant superior authority (the Regional Authority in the case of municipal authorities – the regional committee for national minorities supervises the exercise of powers of municipal committees). The central authority in this respect is the Government Council for National Minorities (the “Council”) as an advisory and incentive body of the government for issues concerning national minorities and their members. Decisions of local and regional authorities are also subject to judicial review.

Question No. 8. How does the Czech Republic ensure the coherence of its policy by means of financial mechanisms that provide the necessary resources for overall action?

The minority policy in the Czech Republic is funded partly from the state budget in the form of grants provided to a specific project of a civic association of members of national minorities or directly to municipalities. This requires a 30 percent financial participation of the submitter of the relevant project. This is a system of grants designated for promotion of

languages of national minorities (the grant programme of the Ministry of Culture for support of cultural activities of members of national minorities living in the Czech Republic and the grant programme of support of dissemination and receipt of information in languages of national minorities, the grant programme of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports for support of education in languages of national minorities and of multicultural education). Provision of grants to members of national minorities is generally regulated by the Government Decree No. 98/2002 Coll., which sets forth the terms and conditions and the method of granting subsidies from the state budget to activities of members of national minorities and for support of integration of the Roma Communities. Such grants are provided on the basis of selection procedures, with representatives of national minorities comprising the majority of members of the grant allocation commissions.

Question No. 9. How does the Czech Republic facilitate and /or encourage actively the use of its regional or minority languages especially in public life? Please give further details on the use of German in public and private media (quality and quantity) in broadcasting and in the written press.

The exercise of the right to use the mother tongue in public relations is guaranteed by the law particularly with regard to judicial authorities – in criminal, civil or administrative proceedings. It is provided for in practice and paid by the state. Citizens may also use minority languages in dealings before administrative authorities. As regards the Slovak language, it is also possible to file written submissions in this language. As regards public media, the extent and programme scope of broadcasting of the Czech Radio (ČRo) designated to individual minorities is based on specific needs and location of the minorities. ČRo 1 Radiožurnál and most regional stations of ČRo broadcast for the Roma and the Slovak minorities, which live scattered throughout the Czech Republic. The regional station ČRo Ostrava broadcasts for the Polish minority, which is concentrated in Northern Moravia; radio broadcast in German is limited to two programmes of the regional station ČRo Plzeň per week (Thursday and Saturday, 15 minutes), a programme of the regional station ČRo North (15 minutes on Tuesday) and a 20 minutes' monthly broadcast of the regional station ČRo Brno. The Ministry of Culture provides subsidies for the publication of German periodicals Landes Zeitung and Eghaländ Bladl (2,000,000 CZK a year).

Question No. 10. Please give further details on the use of Romani in public and private media (quality and quantity) in broadcasting and in the written press.

The Ministry of Culture provides every year subsidies for publication of periodicals and electronic media Romano hangos (<http://www.romanohangos.cekit.cz/>), Romano vod'i (http://www.romea.cz/index.php?id=rv/rv&rubrika=RV_7-8/2008), Kereka, formerly also Radio Rota (http://www.dzeno.cz/?r_id=33) and Romano kurko; the subsidy ranges between 5,000,000 – 6,000,000 CZK a year. The use of the Roma language in the Czech Radio – see question no. 9.

Question No. 11. Please give further details on the use of German in economic life (signage, contracts, terminology, etc.) in the Czech Republic.

German is used as a business language in Prague, namely due to the presence of German companies (working language in law and commercial firms operating in Prague) and tourists (also in border regions). Members of the German minority (i.e. citizens of the Czech Republic of German national origin) usually speak German in private (mixed families speak mostly Czech with regard to the partners), but use Czech in contacts with authorities or in business

dealings (this is also due to regional differences among individual German dialects and to the small number of members of the same language group).

Question No. 12. Please give further details on the use of Romani in economic life (oral or written).

As noted in the Report, a large part of the Roma speak the Roma ethnolect of the Czech language, with only a few language element of Romani; due to this fact, we cannot speak about an established language in public contacts or in business. In 2007, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports commissioned a two-year research project “Preparation and pilot testing of methods of socio-linguistic research of the situation of the Romani language in the territory of the Czech Republic”, which is being carried out by the Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Prague. Preliminary results of this research are stated in Annex 1 to the Report on the Situation of National Minorities in the Czech Republic in 2007 (the English translation is available on the Council's website:

www.vlada.cz/assets/cs/rvk/rnm/dokumenty/dokumenty_rady/en_zprava_opravy_def_1.pdf

Question No. 13. The Committee of Experts would appreciate a more detailed list of activities facilitating and encouraging the cultural life (support for cultural organisations, activities, etc.) related to the German language.

See question no. 9. Members of the German minority are associated in two organizations: *Assembly of Germans in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia (Shromáždění Němců v Čechách, na Moravě a ve Slezsku)*, which is an umbrella organization of 22 separately registered unions and their 30 regional organizations. The other organization is the *Cultural Association of Citizens of German Nationality (Kulturní sdružení občanů ČR německé národnosti)*, which registers 28 basic units. Besides the Assembly of Germans, there is also the youth organization *JUKON (Jugendkontakt-Organization; www.jukon.net/)*. These associations organize German language lessons, seminars for youth and older people on various topics, a variety of cultural events to preserve traditions, etc. They also organize help with renovation of churches and historical monuments and provide social assistance to disadvantaged and sick people. Development of minority activities is difficult due to the dispersal of the German minority throughout the territory of the Czech Republic. However, the national and regional civic associations participate in subsidy programmes offered by the state and self-administration authorities addressing activities of national minorities.

Both umbrella associations publish their periodical. From 1968 to 2007, the Cultural Association published *Prager Volkszeitung* (following the issue of the periodical *Aufbau und Frieden*, which had been published since 1952). The same role is played by a biweekly issued by the Association of Germans, *Landes Zeitung* (available online at www.landeszeitung.cz). Unions organized under the auspices of the Association of Germans publish their own information papers - in Krnov, Opava, in Šumperk (for children and youth), in Hřebeč (for youth and members), in Plzeň, Liberec, Cheb and Chomutov. Publication of non-periodical materials in German is also widespread.

Question No. 14. Please inform the Committee of Experts about the activities facilitating and encouraging cultural life (support for cultural organisations, activities, etc.) related to the Romani language.

Media: issue of periodicals, operation of a web portal (see Question No. 10).

Education: a grant programme for promotion of integration of the Roma community (leisure time activities and general primary prevention), cooperation with schools, subsidy

programmes of support of Roma secondary school students; a unique educational project is also the Department of Roma Studies, Charles University, Prague (see also Question No. 12).

Culture: the programme of the Ministry of Culture for promotion of integration of the Roma community (clubs, music, dance, literary works, fine arts); a significant specific institution is the Museum of Roma Culture in Brno, which is a contributory organization of the Ministry of Culture.

Sports: mostly soccer (there are some ten active clubs in the Czech Republic).

Politics and public activities: a separate phenomenon is the Roma political party – Roma Civic Initiative of the Czech Republic (ROI) and the Parliament of the Roma in the Czech Republic.

The popularity of the International Day of the Roma (April 8) has been increasing gradually and this event is remembered by the majority of the active associations.

Question No. 15. Please give further details on the use of Romani in social life (health care, social services, elderly care, etc) in the Czech Republic.

See questions no. 12 and 14. Based on this provision of Act No. 273/2001 Coll., all electoral laws also include conditions under which the mayor of the municipality has to publish notices of the time and place of elections, reminders to voters of their duty to prove their identity and citizenship and all other information necessary for smooth course of elections also in the language of the relevant national minority. This also applies to the Romani; the Ministry of the Interior – beyond the scope of its obligations under the electoral law - sent an *Information on the How to Vote* in the relevant minority languages, including the Romani, to all municipalities where citizens claiming other than the Czech nationality account for more than 10 percent of the municipality's population ahead of the elections to the Chamber of Deputies, the Senate and municipal assemblies. This *Information on the How to Vote* was posted in these municipalities at the places commonly used for this purpose, i.e. mainly on the official board of the municipal authority and in every polling station in the territory of the municipality.

Question No. 16. Please give further details on the use of German in social life (health care, social services, elderly care, etc) in the Czech Republic.

See Question No. 15 (electoral matters also apply to German).

Question No. 17. Please inform the Committee of Experts about the activities facilitating and encouraging the use of German in justice and administration (availability and training of interpreters and translators, regional or minority language speaking staff, possibility to contact administrations in the regional or minority language, provision of services in the language, use/adoption of topographical names) in the Czech Republic.

See Questions No. 9 and 10. The responsibility for procurement and professional training of court-appointed (sworn) interpreters rests with the relevant professional organizations (e.g. the Chamber of Court-appointed Interpreters of the Czech Republic).

Question No. 18. Please inform the Committee of Experts about the activities facilitating and encouraging the use of Romani in justice and administration in the Czech Republic.

See Question No. 9.

Question No. 19. The Periodical Report states on page 11 that “(...) the Interior Ministry register lists more than 5.000 civic associations of this type; nevertheless, only about one third of them are actually working.” Please provide more information about these associations. What are their activities concerning regional or minority languages? Do they receive public funding or other state facilitation of their activities?

The Ministry of the Interior registers over 500 civic associations (not 5,000, as stated erroneously in the English text of the Report). The cooperation of these organizations and their activities are promoted by means of grant programmes, particularly by the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (see Question No. 8). In 2007, there were 8 registered associations of the Bulgarians, three registered associations of the Croats, six registered associations of the Hungarians, 27 associations of the Germans, 17 associations of the Poles, 480 associations of the Roma, three associations of the Ruthenians, ten associations of the Russians, four associations of the Greeks, nine associations of the Slovaks, one association of the Serbs and 11 associations of the Ukrainians.

Question No. 20. Is there a non-governmental umbrella organisation that facilitates the development of links between the different existing groups?

As noted in the Report, the protection and development of minority languages is promoted by CzechBLUL, the national branch of the European Bureau for Lesser-Used Languages (EBLUL). The major influence in this organization is exerted by representatives of the Polish minority and its interest is focused on the issue of the Polish language in the Czech Republic. In addition to this organization, the Association of National Minorities was founded in the end of the 1990s; however, it has not developed any tangible activities.

Question No. 21. The Committee of Experts would welcome more details on the activities of the “National Minorities House” (see Periodical Report, page 11).

The House of National Minorities was opened on 21 June 2007. The minorities represented there include the following: the Bulgarian, Hungarian, German, Polish, Roma, Ruthenian, Russian, Greek, Slovak, Serbian and Ukrainian minority. According to its statute, the main mission of the House is as follows:

- Coordination and concentration of activities of organizations of national minorities in the territory of the capital Prague
- Helping to establish of mutual understanding among nationalities and to overcome bias
- Focus on activities of children and youth of the national minorities
- Informing Prague children and youth about national minorities and acquainting the general public in Prague with other leisure time, educational and cultural establishments
- Communication and cooperation among national minorities
- Communication and cooperation between national minorities and the mainstream society
- Cooperation with other multiculturally oriented organizations
- Organization of exhibitions, concerts, recitals, reading, film shows, theatrical performances
- Organization of conferences and seminars with multicultural and other topics

Question No. 22. Is there an overall legislative framework for the teaching of German and Romani?

Individual measures of Part III of the Charter are implemented in the secondary education system through Sections 13 and 14 of Act No. 561/2004 Coll. on Preschool, Primary, Secondary, College and Other Education (the School Act), as amended.

Subject to the fulfilment of the conditions set forth in the above sections of the Act, each secondary school may organize education in a national minority language or may teach certain subjects in a foreign language. See also Question No. 8.

Question No. 23. Is there a public support scheme?

See also Question No. 8.

Question No. 24. How many schools/classes teach German and Romani as a subject? Are other subjects taught through the medium of German or Romani? How does the Czech Republic encourage attendance of pupils at such classes?

Question No. 25. Where are these schools/classes located?

German is offered to students and pupils at most primary and secondary schools as a compulsorily optional subject – foreign language (mostly as a part of the selection among English, German and French, or also Spanish, Italian or Russian). Education in the German language is provided in several places in the Czech Republic. In 1996, the Ministry of Education included in its schools network the Private Primary School of the German-Czech Understanding () and the First Grammar School of Thomas Mann in Prague (www.gtmskola.cz) and provides a subsidy covering 100% and 90% of the school's budget respectively. The Primary School of Bernard Bolzano in Tábor (www.skolabolzano.cz), which launched its activities 1997, is included in the schools network and 60% of its budget is financed by states subsidies. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports has also supported the establishment of bilingual Czech-German grammar schools in Prague and Liberec. Moreover, a private multi-annual Austrian Grammar School has been operating in Prague since 1991 (all these schools are public benefit societies).

The Romani language/Roma studies are included in the curriculum of the following schools: The Social Legal College, Secondary Pedagogic School and Business Academy in Most (www.vos-oamost.cz) in the study programme Social Care - Social Activities for Ethnic Groups), the Roma Secondary Social School in Kolín (www.osf.cz/djuric/KOLINCZ.htm) - a private school with several branches throughout the Czech Republic, Secondary School of Prof. Zdeněk Matějček in Ostrava (www.skolspec.cz), Secondary Health Care School and Secondary Vocational Training Centre in Český Krumlov (the branch “social care-social activities for ethnic groups”; www.zdravkack.cz), and Evangelical Academy, Social Legal College and Secondary School in Prague 4 as a part of the branch “Social Activities in the Environment of Ethnic Minorities” (www.eapraha.cz/joomla).

Question No. 26. Can they be easily reached? If not, does the State organize transport?

The schools provide education in the individual catchment areas; the transport is organized only within the relevant area.

Question No. 27. How many pupils are needed to set up a language class in German and Romani?

Eight in kindergartens, ten in primary schools and twelve in secondary schools according to Section 14(2) and (3) of the School Act, designated for education in the language of the relevant national minority; a smaller number may be used for the teaching of the language itself, depending on the possibilities of the founder of the school.

Question No. 28. Is the teaching of the respective languages part of the curriculum? Is it compulsory for all pupils?

As mentioned in question 24, German has the status of a compulsorily optional subject.

Question No. 29. Are there adequate teaching materials for all stages of education in German and Romani?

Sufficient and varied materials are available for teaching German; Romani textbooks and other teaching aids are prepared in cooperation with the Department of Roma Studies, Faculty of Arts, Charles University.

Question No. 30. When does teaching take place (e.g. during school hours, evening, weekend, summer schools)?

Languages are taught in schools mentioned in question no. 24 as a part of the curriculum.

Question No. 31. How is teacher training organised? Are there enough qualified teachers?

The instruction is guaranteed by individual pedagogical faculties, in case of the Romani by the Department of Roma Studies.

Question No. 32. To what extent do private schools teach the respective languages?

See Question No. 24.

Question No. 33. Please provide information on educational facilities for the teaching of the regional or minority languages to non-speakers.

The current support of individual languages has the form of support of the relevant linguistic programmes or study branches (Polish, Slovak, German, Roma Studies) at most universities offering art studies or their parts. With regard to the autonomous position of universities, the state has no direct powers to establishment such branches. However, offers of universities with linguistic studies include studies of the relevant languages. A special reference should be made to Romani studies which are organized at the Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Prague, as a part of the study programme *Philology* (a bachelor and subsequent master programme of Roma Studies (www.romistika.eu), to Romani lessons for interested participants from all study taught at the Faculty of Education, Masaryk University, Brno branches (an hourly subsidy 0/2 in both the winter and the summer term). Roma studies and studies of Romani language are also offered by the Department of Special Pedagogy, Faculty of Education, Charles University, Prague. See also Question No. 60.

Question No. 34. How are they made aware of this offer ?

Ordinary public presentations of universities, the offer to secondary school students wishing to pursue university education.

Question No. 35. Please provide further information on the accredited study programmes of Czech Universities concerning regional or minority languages.

See Question No. 33; individual linguistic study branches/programmes are taught at classical universities: Charles University, Prague, Palacký University in Olomouc, Masaryk University in Brno and Ostrava University. The Romani language – see Question No. 33, the Polish and the Slovak language – see Question No. 60. German studies are taught at the Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University as a bachelor and a master programme, as well as at the Palacký University in Olomouc and at the Faculty of Arts, Ostrava University and at the Faculty of Education, University of Hradec Králové (as a bachelor programme). A department of German studies with five relevant study programmes has been opened at the Faculty of Arts, University of Jan Evangelista Purkyně; another department of German studies with three relevant study programmes exists at the Faculty of Education of the Southern Bohemian University. Furthermore, a department of German studies with a bachelor, master and doctoral study programmes exists at the Faculty of Arts of the University of West Bohemia, which has also an accredited joint study programme European Studies with the Technical University in Chemnitz. Similar offers of German studies are provided by the Technical University in Liberec, Faculty of Arts of the Pardubice University, Faculty of Arts and Natural Sciences of the Silesian University in Opava and by a number of other regional universities.

Question No. 36. Does the Czech Republic promote research on the regional or minority languages ?

This research is carried out in the framework of scientific grants of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (e.g. the Fund of the Development of Universities), the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic, or within the framework of cooperation between states or individual schools.

Question No. 37. Please specify which regional or minority languages can be studied as subjects at university level.

See Question No. 33. All.

Question No. 38. Is it possible to study at university level in any of these languages – if so, what subjects (e.g. is it possible to study economics in Polish?).

Some study programmes are offered by schools in English or German. In addition to this, there are a number of Russian private universities in the Czech Republic, which offer studies in Russian (however, most of them are not accredited). Slovak is used by some lecturers from Slovakia.

Question No. 39. Please give concrete examples regarding the promotion of transnational exchanges at local and national level including also non-governmental activities, school exchanges, etc. To what extent are regional or minority languages involved within these exchanges ?

The programme of twinning cities (in all areas), the regional cooperation programme (Euroregions – particularly in relation to the Polish, the Slovak and the German language), student exchanges (depending on individual schools).

Question No. 40. The Periodical Report states that “since Czech legislation does not designate any official language, the choice of the language of communication in public life is up to the parties concerned” (p.11). Please inform the Committee of Experts whether there is nevertheless in practice unjustified restriction of the use of regional or minority languages, or whether any special measures in favour of regional or minority languages have been adopted.

As noted in question no. 9, use of the mother tongue in the judiciary and administrative areas works smoothly. As noted in the Report, there was only a single case of doubt about the validity of applications written in Slovak (in a grant programme offered by self-administration authorities). Following the relevant explanation, the applications were fully accepted.

Question No. 41. According to the Periodical Report, in the field of education, a practical result of promoting mutual understanding between linguistic groups is the introduction of so-called framework education programmes (p.12). Please provide more information on the nature of these programmes.

Question No. 42. Do national curricula and mainstream teaching materials raise awareness of the languages and provide a positive portrayal of their history and culture?

Question No. 43. Does teacher training include knowledge of the regional and minority languages of the Czech Republic, their history and culture?

The Framework Educational Programme for Primary Schools is an open document, defining all common and necessary elements of compulsory primary education of pupils, including education in the corresponding grades of multi-annual secondary schools.

The cross-sectional topic Multicultural Education (a part of the Framework Programme – one of the six cross-sectional topics, together with Environmental Education, Media Education, etc.) in primary education enables pupils to familiarize themselves with the diversity of various cultures, their traditions and values. Against this background, pupils can better recognize their own cultural identity, traditions and values.

Multicultural education mediates the knowledge of own cultural grounds and understanding of other cultures. It develops the sense of justice, solidarity and tolerance, leads to the understanding and respecting of the continuously increasing social and cultural diversity. At the same time, it develops recognition of own cultural specifics by ethnic minorities and at the same time the knowledge of the culture of the entire society. It also acquaints the mainstream society with fundamental specifics of the other nationalities living in the common state and helps finding points of contact of both groups necessary for mutual respect, joint activities and cooperation.

Multicultural education goes across all educational areas. It is particularly close to the areas of Language and Language Communication, The Man and the Society, Information and Communication Technologies, Arts and Culture, The Man and Health; as regards the area Man and Nature, it affects, in particular, the educational branch “Geography”. The link to these areas is given particularly by topics which deal with mutual relations between members of various nations and ethnic groups.

Question No. 44. How does the Czech Republic encourage the private and public media to inform about the languages and to avoid adverse portrayal? Please give some practical examples.

Television, radio and printed media are subject to supervision by independent Councils (Council for Radio and Television Broadcasting, Czech Television Council, Czech Radio Council).

Question No. 45. Please give more details on the “national minority boards” (Periodical Report, p. 12). Are the members of these boards representatives of the speakers ?

Based on the result of the 2001 population census, a committee for national minorities has to be established under Section 117(3) of Act No. [128/2000 Coll. on Municipalities, as amended, in](#) every municipality where the citizens claiming other than the Czech nationality account for at least 10 percent of all inhabitants residing in its territory. However, members of such national minorities have to comprise at all times at least one half of all members of the committee. Analogically, Section 78(2) of the Act on Regions stipulates that a committee for national minorities has to be established in a region which has, according to the last population census, at least 5 percent of inhabitants claiming that they belong to other than the Czech national origin. In most cases, members of these committees are people who speak the language of the relevant national minority and who are appointed upon proposals of organizations of members of national minorities.

Question No. 46. Has the Czech Republic invited the speakers to participate in the formulation of the language policy ?

Representatives of individual minorities may present comments on the language policy of the Czech Republic or initiate changes as a part of the agenda of the Government Council for National Minorities.

Question No. 47. Please provide more information on teacher training with regard to regional or minority languages at all levels of education (pre-school; primary, secondary and vocational education).

Education of teachers (at all levels of education) for the requirements of teaching of minority languages is provided by universities. See also Question No. 33 et seq.

Question No. 48. The Periodical Report mentions on page 16 the “Pedagogical Centre for Polish National Schools” and “courses offered by the Polish Teachers Association”. Please inform the Committee of Experts whether teachers are trained to teach Polish as a subject or several other subjects through the medium of Polish. Are there further training possibilities ?

A pedagogue who teaches Polish has completed university education in the field of Polish studies at a university (most often at Ostrava University, Palacký University in Olomouc, Silesian University in Katowice, Jagello University in Krakow, etc.), as well as the corresponding education for other subjects (taught in Polish). All teachers are bilingual; therefore, their Polish for teaching another subject has the C1-2 level under the common European Reference Framework. Moreover, these teachers receive further systematic education and linguistic issues, particularly terminology, do not represent any obstacle for teachers at schools using the Polish language of instruction.

As noted in the Report, there were 25 primary schools and 5 secondary schools providing education in the Polish language in the school year 2007/2008 (all of them in the Moravian-

Silesian Region). Instruction in Polish includes teaching of subjects other than the Polish language. The Association of Polish Teachers (“Towarzystwo Nauczycieli Polskich”) and the Pedagogic Centre for Polish National Education provide further teacher training not only with regard to teaching of the Polish language. The Pedagogic Centre is a contributory organization of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. Based on its statute, it is an establishment for further education of pedagogues of schools with the Polish language of instruction (including those with integrated Polish classes) and provides guidelines and materials for their activities. The Pedagogic Centre participates in cross-border cooperation projects (Euroregion Silesian Těšín -Śląsk Cieszyński; the Czech-Polish database of educational institutions), in international cooperation (e.g. the programme Socrates – Comenius; Intercultural Education On-line (InterEOL); the JROP; Partnership to Prosperity). The Centre participates in the creation, translation and distribution of textbook and guidance materials (including those imported from Poland). It organizes contests for pupils of schools with the Polish language of instruction (the Polish language, the English language, mathematics, physics, geography, chemistry, biology, music), educational concerts and excursions. As a part of guidance and counselling services, it possesses a library, a video library, audio and video recordings. Materials may be copied. The Centre participates in the publication of the magazines *Ogniwo* and *Jutrzenka* for pupils (these periodicals funded from the state budget through the budget chapter of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports). See also Question No. 53. Further education of pedagogues comprises specialized activities of educational methodologists (orientation in most recent trends and innovations), preparation of trial lessons and coordination of individual offers. Organization of events for lifelong education of parents has also been very successful.

Question No. 49. Please inform the Committee of Experts of the number of pupils in the 33 kindergartens where pre-school education is provided in Polish and provide more information about the criteria for making exemptions from the minimum class size (see Periodical Report, page 14).

Situation as of 30 September 2008 - 741 children.

Number of kindergartens with the Polish language of instruction – 26 kindergartens (two of which have their own legal personalities and 24 of which are managed by primary schools with the Polish language of instruction). Another seven kindergartens (Czech) have a Polish class with a Polish teacher.

The conditions for granting an exception are governed by the relevant provision of the School Act. Exceptions are granted by the municipalities upon request of the school principal (an exception can be granted up to 20% in accordance with Section 23 of the School Act).

Question No. 50. Please indicate the number of staff-members teaching (in) Polish and give more details on the teaching materials used.

There are some 300 teachers; this number is variable. All teach in Polish (see above). See Question No. 53.

Question No. 51. According to the Periodical Report (p. 14) “Several municipalities in the region have bilingual kindergartens with linguistically mixed staff and pupils.” How many hours are they approximately instructed in Polish? Are there any details of the number and size of the groups ?

The number of lessons taught in Polish depends on the staffing in individual kindergartens; the number of hours and the number of such groups cannot be specified more precisely. See also Question No. 49.

Question No. 52. How are parents informed about the offer of Polish-medium or bilingual kindergartens ? Kindergartens inform about enrolment and present their educational programmes. The same applies to primary schools (advertising flyers in municipalities and at primary schools, “open door days”). Such information is also disseminated through periodicals of the Polish minority (see Questions No. 48 and 81) and the radio and TV broadcasting for Poles (see Questions No. 76 a 78).

Question No. 53. Please give more details on the teaching material used in the respective schools.

Translations and print of teaching aids for Polish national schools in 2007

Title	Circulation	Total costs in CZK
Jutrzenka	11,500	146,349.00
Ogniwo	11,500	166,740.00
Mathematics 1/1,2,3	1,159	45,201.00
Mathematics 2/1,2,3	841	32,799.00
Mathematics 3/1,2,3	1,040	40,560.00
Mathematics 4/1,2,3	1,041	40,599.00
Report card for primary and secondary schools with Polish language of instruction	6,000	16,800.00
Pisanie w klasie 1 (part 1-4)	200	13,000.00
Jazyk czeski kl.2	250	10,059.00
Ćwiczenia w pisaniu cz.1	57	1,995.00
Ćwiczenia w pisaniu cz.2	51	1,785.00
Karty ćwiczeń - Nauka o środowisku kl. 1	72	1,296.00
Karty ćwiczeń - Nauka o środowisku kl. 2	56	1,008.00
Karty ćwiczeń - Gmina i okolica	43	774.00
Karty ćwiczeń - Przyroda ożyw. i nieożyw.	47	1,222.00
Karty ćwiczeń - Nauka o przyrodzie kl.4	29	1,015.00
Karty ćwiczeń - Nauka o przyrodzie kl.5	29	957.00
Karty ćwiczeń - Nauka o kraju kl.4	27	918.00
Karty ćwiczeń - Nauka o kraju kl.5	28	980.00
Zestaw ćwiczeń ABC	2	60.00
Ćw. wstępne do pisania	154	2,310.00
Karty ćwiczeń - Przyroda ekol. kl.7	1	50.00
Karty ćwiczeń - Przyroda ekol. kl.8	1	50.00
Karty ćwiczeń do elementarza kl.1 cz.1	155	7,750.00
Karty ćwiczeń do elementarza kl. 1 cz.2	153	7,650.00
Karty ćwiczeń - Pisanie klasa 2	75	6,000.00
Textbooks for Intercultural Education On-line – within the InterEOL project	100	43,000.00
Total	34,611	590,927.00

All instruction materials (in the Czech or the Polish language version) are approved by the school principal. The textbooks have a certification clause issued by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, teaching aids (magazines in the Polish language, Jutrzenka and Ogniwo) are published by the Pedagogic Centre in Český Těšín with financial support of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. Some schools prepare their own teaching aids, which complies with the Framework Educational Programme.

Schools use Czech and Polish textbooks; some textbooks issued by Czech publishing houses have Polish language versions (the translations were prepared by methodologists of the

Pedagogical Centre (PC) in Český Těšín and teachers of schools with the Polish language of instruction); this includes, in particular, textbooks of the publishing houses Alter, Fortuna, Prodos and SPN. Polish publishing houses include WSiP (Wydawnictwa Szkolne i Pedagogiczne), Wydawnictwo Edukacyjne Kraków, Innowacje Golezów, ADAM Warszawa and ZNAK Kraków and others.

The Society of Polish Teachers in the Czech Republic has realized in cooperation with the PC the project “Methodological Seminars on the Issue of Learning Texts and Textbooks for Instruction in Schools with the Polish Language of Instruction” (a grant programme of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic titled Promotion of Education in Languages of National Minorities and Multicultural Education). As a part of this project, schools received textbooks in Polish.

Question No. 54. The Periodical Report states on page 14 that “(...) the pupils receive instruction in Polish and are taught some additional specific subjects”. Please provide more information on these additional subjects. How many hours are taught through the medium of Polish in proportion to Czech-medium-classes and what subjects are these ?

Based on current educational requirements of pupils of the Polish national minorities, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports granted the request of the Polish Centre for Polish National Education and approved the *Framework Curriculum for Schools with the Polish Language of Instruction*. This curriculum differs from the curricula of Czech schools only by the number of language lessons. We have no knowledge of any other specific subject, unless we would consider Polish Language and Literature as a specific subject:¹

Specializations	Branches	Level 1	Level 2
		Grade 1 - 5	Grade 6 – 9 and corresponding grades of multi-annual secondary schools
Minimum time subsidy			
Language and language communication	Polish language and literature	35	15
	Czech language and literature	14	12
	Foreign language	9	12
Mathematics and its application		20	15
Information and communication technologies		1	1
The Man and His World		12	-
The Man and the Society	History	-	11
	Citizenship guidance		
The Man and Nature	Physics	-	21
	Chemistry	-	
	Biology	-	
	Geography	-	
Art and Culture	Music	12	10
	Arts		
The Man and Health	Health guidance	-	10
	Physical education	10	
The Man and the World of Work		5	3
Cross-sectional topics		P	P
Available time subsidy		2	14
Total compulsory time subsidy		120	124

¹ The total hourly subsidy, except for Czech language and foreign language lessons, applies to the instruction in Polish.

Question No. 55. The Periodical Report states on page 14 that “there are 1.739 pupils enrolled in schools with instruction in Polish.” Since the table at the very bottom of the same page displays a different number (1.863), the Committee of Experts kindly requests a clarification of this discrepancy.

There is a typo in the English version of the Report. The last column of the table should be filled as follows:

Pupils, total
745
994
1739

Question No. 56. How are parents and pupils actively informed of the possibility to set up a Slovak-medium class? How are they actively encouraged to make use of this possibility ?

Parents of the children received at the relevant time information about the possibility of instruction in the Slovak language via Slovak periodical and radio broadcasting in Slovak. The room in these media should be sufficient for the given purpose.

Question No. 57. Please provide information concerning the curricula of the five secondary schools mentioned on page 15 of the Periodical Report specifying in particular the number of hours and the type of subjects taught through the medium of Polish.

The Grammar School with the Polish Language of Instruction in Český Těšín ([/www.gimnazjum.wz.cz](http://www.gimnazjum.wz.cz))

The binding curriculum for the regular study of the four-year cycle of the study branch 79-41-K/401 of the Grammar School with the Polish Language of Instruction – Gimnazjum z Polskim Językiem Nauczania, Český Těšín, a contributory organization, is the curriculum ref. no. 25280/99-22, which was approved by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic on 15 July 1999. The curriculum was supplemented upon an instruction of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic ref. no. 19 671/2006 -23 on the change of instruction documents.

The school is currently preparing a School Education Programme, which it will start implementing in the school year 2009/2010. The total subsidy at the Grammar School is 132 hours.

Business Academy in Český Těšín:

63-41-M/004 Business Academy (Polish language of Instruction), specialization: International Trade, Economics and Business

Subjects taught in Polish:

- język polski i literatura (Polish language and literature) – the hourly subsidy is 13 hrs./week
- historia (History)
- matematyka (Mathematics)
- towaroznawstwo (Knowledge of merchandise)
- księgowość (Accounting)
- księgowość na PC (Accounting on PC)
- podatki i ubezpieczenia (Taxes and insurance)

- pisanie na klawiaturze komputera (Written and electronic communication)
- ekonomika (Economics)
- wychowanie ekologiczne (Environmental education)
- podstawy retoryki (Fundamentals of rhetoric)
- informatyka (IT)
- ćwiczenia ekonomiczne (Economic exercises)
- handel międzynarodowy (International trade)
- statystyka (Statistics)
- podstawy nauk społecznych - psychologia i socjologia (Psychology and sociology)
- podstawy nauk społecznych – filozofia (Philosophy))
- podstawy nauk społecznych – politologia (Political science)

Question No. 58. Please provide more details on the teaching material used in the five secondary (and vocational) schools providing instruction in Polish.

The Secondary Technical School in Karviná has textbooks of grammar and literature in Polish; e-textbooks for the Polish language and literature have been created as a part of an European project and have been posted on the school's website; these electronic textbooks are also used by the Secondary Health Care School as a partner of the project (www.sps-karvina.cz/www/polstina/literaturap.htm).

Technical subjects are taught in Czech; Polish teachers have a Polish technical textbook, which they have bought at their own expense.

The Business Academy uses the following textbooks of Polish language and literature (the same textbooks are used by the Grammar School with the Polish Language of Instruction in Český Těšín)

- Biedrzycki, K., Pasięka, D.: Z Pegazem. Opowieść o człowieku. Klasa I, ZNAK, Kraków 2003;
- Skudrzykowa, A.: Z Pegazem. Mowa i życie. Kształcenie językowe. ZNAK, Kraków 2003;
- Biedrzycki, K.: Z Pegazem. Opowieść o człowieku. Klasa 2, ZNAK, Kraków, 2003;
- Skudrzykowa, A.: Z Pegazem. Mowa i życie. Kształcenie językowe. ZNAK, Kraków 2003;
- Biedrzycki, K.: Z Pegazem. Opowieść o człowieku. Klasa 2, ZNAK, Kraków, 2003;
- Biedrzycki, K.: Z Pegazem. Opowieść o człowieku. Klasa 3, ZNAK, Kraków, 2004;
- Wroczyński, T. Literatura polska dwudziestolecia międzywojennego. Warszawa: WSiP, 1999;
- Zgólkowie, T. i H.: Mówię, więc jestem. Kraków: Od nowa, 2002;
- Wroczyński, T. Literatura polska od roku 1939. Warszawa: WSiP, 1999;
- Biedrzycki, K.: Z Pegazem. Opowieść o człowieku. Klasa 3, ZNAK, Kraków, 2004
- Zgólkowie, T. i H.: Mówię, więc jestem. Kraków: Od nowa, 2002;

Question No. 59. Please give more details on the teaching material used at the Secondary Technical School in Karviná, the Business Academy in Český Těšín and the Secondary Nursing School in Karviná.

- The curriculum of the Business Academy, Český Těšín, Sokola Tůmy 12, includes the branch no. 63-41-M/004 Business Academy in Polish as the language of instruction.
- The curriculum of the Secondary Health Care School, K.H. Borovského 2315, 733 01 Karviná - Mizerov, includes the branch no. 53-41-M/007 Health Care Assistant in Polish.
- The curriculum of the Secondary Technical School, Žižkova 1818, Karviná – Hranice, includes the branch no. 23-41-M/001, Machinery in Polish language.

- The curriculum of the Grammar School with the Polish Language of Instruction in Český Těšín, Havlíčkova 13, includes the branches 79-41-K/401 Grammar School – General, 79-41-K/601 Grammar School – General, 79-41-K/404 Grammar School – Natural Sciences in Polish.

See Question No. 58.

Question No. 60. Please give more information on the higher education institutions in the Czech Republic and particularly on their study and research programmes concerning Slovak and Polish.

Slovak is taught by the Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University, as a bachelor and a master programme. The Faculty of Arts, Charles University in Prague, offers a bachelor and a master programme of Slavic studies.

The study programme Polish Studies /Polish language is taught by the Faculty of Masaryk University, as a bachelor and a master programme, like at Palacký University in Olomouc (<http://polonistika.upol.cz/>) and the Faculty of Arts of Ostrava University in Ostrava (<http://ff.osu.cz/ksl/>). The last mentioned faculty has also accredited a doctoral programme in this branch. We have been informed that the Faculty of Arts of Ostrava University is currently preparing a bachelor programme Polish Language for Business Practice. As regards research projects, we can refer, for instance, to the project Euromobil within the Socrates programme, which comprises support to the dissemination of knowledge of nine European languages among students, including the Polish language. Bachelor and master programmes in German studies are organized at the same universities that offer Polish programmes. See also Charles University in Prague (<http://polonistika.cz/>), Masaryk University in Brno (www.phil.muni.cz/wusl), University of Hradec Králové, Faculty of Education (www.uhk.cz/pdf/1089/p18). Courses of Polish and Polish literature or history are also offered by the Silesian University in Opava as part of the programme Public Administration and Regional Policy and Central European Policy, which is taught at the Faculty of Arts and Natural Sciences (www.fpf.slu.cz/studium/plany-programy-obory/studijni-plany) and by the University in Ústí nad Labem as a part of the programme Training of Teachers of the Czech Language and Literature at the Faculty of Education (http://pfl.ujep.cz/OSL_slozeni.asp).

Question No. 61. Please clarify by which measures the Czech Republic supports actively the facilities of the study of Slovak and Polish.

Support of public universities by the state is governed by Act No. 111/1998 Coll. on Universities and on the Amendment to Certain Laws (the Universities Act), as amended. Study programmes are funded in accordance with normatives, which differ by financial demands.

Question No. 62. How are people actively informed of the possibility to set up courses in Polish? How are they actively encouraged to make use of this possibility?

See Question No. 52.

Question No. 63. In the Periodical Report (p. 15) the Czech Republic mentions that the teaching of the history and culture which is reflected by the Polish and the Slovak languages, is provided at primary education level. Does such teaching also take place at secondary level?

Yes, this is taken into account in six cross-sectional topics of the Framework Educational Programme of Secondary Education. In addition to this, the recognition of the national and civil identity and getting rid of bias, intolerance, racism, aggressive nationalism and ethnic and religious intolerance is expressly specified among the objectives of secondary education.

Question No. 64. Which textbooks are used for this purpose at those education levels ?

See Question No. 48

Question No. 65. Please provide a copy or the internet address of the report concerning supervision, monitoring and reporting obligations mentioned in the Periodical Report on page 16. Please inform the Committee of Experts if this report is made public.

Reports on the situation of national minorities have been published since 2002 both in Czech and in English on the website of the Government Council for National Minorities:

www.vlada.cz/assets/cs/rvk/rnm/dokumenty/dokumenty_rady/en_zprava_opravy_def.pdf

The reports are published every year and sent to regional authorities and authorities of cities and municipalities (where a committee for national minorities has been established), to organizations of members of national minorities, libraries of the universities and their parts.

Question No. 66. To what extent do the Czech authorities encourage the teaching in or of Polish in territories other than in the Frýdek-Místek and Karviná districts ?

The Polish Institute in Prague offers Polish language classes at various advancement levels. The classes are led by Polish tutors specialized in teaching Polish as a foreign language. The Polish classes start at all times in October and last until June. The classes are comprised of two lessons once a week. One lesson lasts 45 minutes; there are six to twelve students per one group. The Polish Institute organizes sale of textbooks used at all levels. Besides these classes, there are tens of language schools in the Czech Republic which offer Polish language classes (e.g. the Language Institute in Prague, the Language and Educational Centre Pygmalion, Tutor Language School, Candid – Language School in Brno, Language School Sluň in Ostrava, Brno, Plzeň and Prague). These activities are not controlled by the state and are based on supply and demand.

Question No. 67. Please provide more information about the availability of adequate trained interpreters and translators.

Act No. 36/1967 Coll. on Experts and Interpreters stipulates that expert and interpretation activities in proceedings before state and self-government authorities are carried out by experts and interpreters listed in the register of experts and interpreters; expert activities are also performed by institutes (scientific institutions, universities).

Persons who are not listed in the register of experts and interpreters may be appointed experts or interpreters in proceedings before state authorities only in special cases, i.e. in cases where there is no expert (interpreter) in a branch (language) listed in the register, or if the expert (interpreter) listed in the register cannot perform the act, or if the performance of the act by an expert (interpreter) listed in the register is connected with excessive hardship or costs.

The responsibility for procurement and professional education of court-appointed experts rests with the relevant professional organization (e.g. the Chamber of Court-Appointed Interpreters of the Czech Republic – interpreters and translators are obliged to enrol in the professional organization).

Question No. 68. Please clarify how the interpreters are trained and if legal terminology is available.

See Question No. 67. No shortage of materials with technical terminology has been identified by professional organizations of interpreters and translators.

Question No. 69. The Committee of Experts would appreciate some concrete examples of proceedings held in the respective languages. Are there any statistics on proceedings in regional or minority languages?

According to the information provided by the Council, statistical data about the use of languages of national minorities in proceedings before courts or self-administration authorities are unavailable. This issue relates to foreigners.

Ad Question No. 70. How are the parties and judicial authorities informed about the possibility to have proceedings in Slovak or Polish ?

The judicial and self-administration authorities provide in their summons (or notices) an instruction about the possibility to use mother tongue during proceedings.

Question No. 71. Does the right exist to use Polish and Slovak in civil, criminal proceedings and in proceedings before courts concerning administration matters, regardless of whether the speaker in question has a command of the Czech language ?

The right to use mother tongue in court proceedings is discretionary; its use depends on the discretion of the relevant person (who may use it even if he/she knows Czech).

Question No. 72. Please give concrete examples of how the administrative authorities make public the possibility of using Polish and Slovak with the administration.

The Secretariat of the Council has issued and distributed to municipalities with at least a 10 percent share of members of national minorities (according to the 2001 population census), to statutory cities, regions and members of the Polish minority a brochure *Charter – What Should We Know (Charta – co bychom měli vědět?)*. The brochure was designated to inform the public the meaning of ratification of the Charter. It is also available on the Council's website.

Question No. 73. The Committee of Experts would welcome further information on the language training of the administrative authority's officials.

Language classes for employees of municipal and regional authorities are organized by these authorities according to the requirements of individual areas.

Question No. 74. Is there a legal provision that allows for the use of Slovak in the submission of requests for public services ?

As mentioned in footnote no. 18 of the Report, Section 3(1) of Act No. 337/1992 Coll. on Administration of Taxes and Charges, as amended, stipulates that all written submissions

shall be filed in Czech or in Slovak and documentary evidence must be accompanied by an official translation into one of these languages.

Section 9(b) of Act No. 21/2006 Coll. on Checking Compliance of a Transcript or Copy with the Document and on Certification of Signature and on the Amendment to Certain Laws (the Certification Act), as amended, stipulates that the relevant authority will not certify a document at sight if the document is written in other than the Czech or the Slovak language and if the authorized employee does not know the language in which the document is made.

Question No. 75. To what extent does the Czech Republic encourage the private media to broadcast in the respective regional or minority languages or topics on minorities? Are there any concrete examples ?

The grant programme of the Ministry of Culture for promotion of dissemination and receipt of information in languages of national minorities allows obtaining funding for the implementation of a project, regardless whether this funding is designated for a civic association of members of national minorities or for another (even private) broadcasting operator. This complies with the Government Decree No. [98/2002 Coll. setting the conditions and method of granting subsidies from the state budget for activities of members of national minorities](#) and for promotion of integration of the Roma minority.

Question No. 76. The Periodical Report states on page 21 that there are several TV programmes broadcasting in the regional or minority language (Polish) or topics on minorities (multicultural programmes). The Committee of Experts would appreciate to receive details on the length of time of broadcasting of these programmes.

Question No. 77. At what time of the day do these television broadcasts take place? Are the multicultural programmes broadcast in Czech or in the regional or minority languages ?

First of all, it is a weekly five minutes' block of current events and news in Polish, which has been established for the Polish minority by the regional studio of the Czech Television (CT) in Ostrava. This block is broadcast within each issue of the programme Events in Regions (Události v regionech) (18:00 hrs. – 6.00 p.m., stoppage 4 minutes at the end of the programme) and also on Sunday in the programme Regional Variety (Zajímavosti z regionů) (5:35 hrs. – 5.35 a.m., 5 minutes at the end of the programme). The programme is produced by three members of the Polish minorities who work as independent contractors. The technical side of the programme is guaranteed by the studio and the material and technology is provided by specialized departments; the programme is evaluated by the Polish minority as good. The Friday issue of the programme Events in the Region (18:00 - 18:25 hrs. on ČT1) includes a broadcast for the Polish minority in Polish with a Czech translation in the form of subtitles.

Another programme is a twenty minutes' weekly block of publicist materials and documents called Babylon, which is produced by the same CT studio. This programme is systematically focused on national minorities, migrants and expatriates. It is broadcast at the CT2 station each Tuesday ČT2 at 18:00 hrs. - 6.00 p.m. In case of use of a foreign language in the programme, the image is supplemented by Czech subtitles.

In addition to the above programmes, there are city and municipal television studios, who establish news and information channels, using partly the Polish language in municipalities with the Polish minority (e.g. in the municipalities of Stonava and Bystřice).

Question No. 78. Please inform the Committee of Experts on the length of time of broadcasting of the Polish language programmes on Czech Radio Ostrava.

Current information in Polish - the Polish news programme Kwadrans polskich aktualit - is broadcast by Ostrava ČRo on workdays from 19:00 to 20:00 hrs. (7.00 to 8.00 p.m.) and for 30 minutes on Sunday from 18:30 hrs. (6.30 p.m.) (the programme “Polish Half Hour” (Polská půlhodinka).

Question No. 79. Please indicate as well the length of broadcasting time of Slovak language programmes on Czech Radio Prague.

ČRo 1 Radiožurnál	Tuesday	20:05-21:00
ČRo Brno	Monday (broadcast for the Slovak minority), Wednesday	19:45-20:00
ČRo České Budějovice	Monday (“Meeting” (“Stretnutie”)), Wednesday	19:45-20:00
ČRo Hradec Králové	Monday, Wednesday (“Broadcast for Slovak Fellow Citizens”)	19:45-20:00
ČRo Olomouc	Monday (“Stretnutie”), Wednesday	19:45-20:00
ČRo Ostrava	Monday (“Stretnutie”), Wednesday	19:45-20:00
ČRo Plzeň	Monday, Wednesday Friday	19:45-20:00 19:30-20:00
ČRo Regina Prague	Monday, Wednesday	19:45-20:00
ČRo Vysočina Region	Monday, Wednesday	19:45-20:00
ČRo North	Monday, Wednesday	18:45-19:00 / 19:45-20:00

Question No. 80. Please provide some concrete examples of audio and audiovisual works that have been produced in Slovak and Polish.

See Questions No. 78 and 79.

Question No. 81. Please indicate, if possible, the average number of pages of the following periodicals in Polish: “Głos Ludu”, “Nasza gazeta” and “Zwrot” and give further details on their content. Zwrot – a cultural monthly published by the Polish Cultural and Educational Union in the Czech Republic (Polský kulturně osvětový svaz v ČR); the number of pages is 80+4 cover pages; its popularity is increasing, as documented by the increase of its circulation in the course of the year. The monthly is focused on culture, education, history and current existence of the Polish national minority in the Czech Republic.

Głos Ludu – a bi-daily published by the Congress of Poles in the Czech Republic (Kongres Poláků v ČR) and contributes to the preservation and knowledge of Polish in the minority society. Number of pages: 8-12 (format A4). This is the most important Polish periodical.

Nasza Gazetka – a magazine for children and youth published by Harcerstwo polské in the Czech Republic. Twenty issues, of which six double issues (due mostly to shortage of funds of the association at the beginning of the year), were published in 2007. Number of pages: 20.

The magazines Ogniwo and Jutrzenka are conceived as supplementary learning materials (see Question No. 48).

For more information, see:

www.vlada.cz/assets/cs/rvk/rnm/mensiny_media/tiskoviny/polaci_2.pdf

Question No. 82. Please indicate, if possible, the average number of pages of the following periodicals in Slovak: “Korene”, “Slovenské dotyky”, “Listy” and “Zrkadlenie” and give further details on their content.

Korene – a monthly published by the *Community of Slovaks in the Czech Republic (Obec Slováků v ČR)* is focused on the life of the Slovak minority in the Czech Republic. Number of pages: 25.

Listy – a monthly magazine published by the *Club of Slovak Culture (Klub slovenské kultury)*, which is a part of the range of magazines published by the Slovak national minority; it is well received and its integral parts are the inserts *Studentské listy (Student News)*, *Oříšek* and *Klubové listy (Club Papers)*. Number of pages: 25.

Slovenské dotyky – a monthly published by the *Slovak-Czech Club (Slovensko-český klub)* in the Czech Republic. The character of the magazine has not changed; in 2007, it continued to be focused on the Slovak community in the Czech Republic, as well as on the Czech public. Number of pages: 25.

Zrkadlenie / Zrcadlení – a literary review. Four issues were published in 2007 as a part of the project implemented by the civic association *Slovak Literary Club (Slovenský literární klub) in the Czech Republic*. Number of pages: 170.

For more information, see:

http://www.vlada.cz/assets/cs/rvk/rnm/mensiny_media/tiskoviny/slovaci_2.pdf

Question No. 83. Regarding the right to receive broadcasts from neighbouring countries, are there any bilateral agreements on transfrontier media ?

The Council has advised that there are no such documents dealing with this topic.

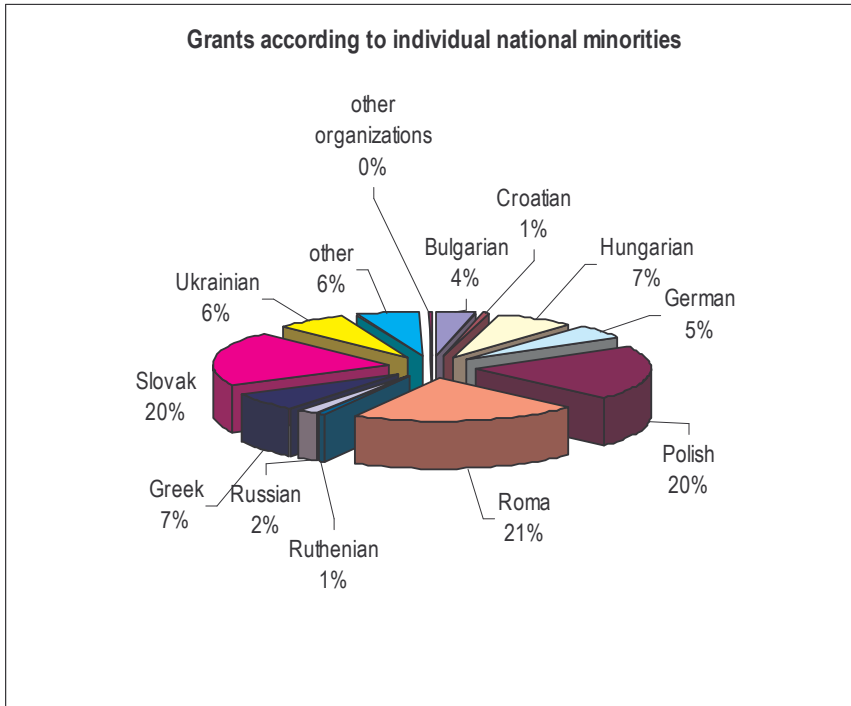
Question No. 84. Since the Report on the situation of National Minorities mentioned in the Periodical Report on page 23 refers to the year 2006, the Committee of Experts would welcome an updated list of the funds allocated from the state budget to support the cultural activities of the Polish and Slovak minority.

The most recent data are contained in the Report on the Situation of National Minorities in the Czech Republic for 2007, from which we quote the following:

Funds allocated in the programme of the Ministry of Culture for promotion of cultural activities of members of national minorities in 2007

<i>minority</i>	<i>fund (CZK)</i>
Bulgarian	349,670
Croatian	60,000
Hungarian	680,000
German	494,000
Polish	1,928,000
Roma	2,020,000
Ruthenian	50,000
Russian	200,000
Greek	650,000
Slovak	1,923,000
Ukrainian	593,000
Other	557,000
Other organizations	30,000

This represents the following percentage:



Question No. 85.

Please provide more information on the direct participation of representatives of Polish and Slovak in providing facilities and planning cultural activities.

An important factor is the programme of the Office for Slovaks Living Abroad, which co-finances i.a. projects of cultural activities, publication of Slovak periodical magazines. Polish magazines are also partly funded by the Polish party.

Question No. 86. Please give concrete information on the projects subsidized by the Czech Republic to establish documentary centres for Polish and Slovak.

This purpose is provided for in the grant programme of the Ministry of Culture for promotion of cultural activities of members of the national minorities. The following projects were subsidized in 2007:

The Polish minority

<i>organization</i>	<i>project</i>	<i>donor</i>	<i>grant (CZK)</i>
Congress of the Poles in the Czech Republic	Documentation Centre of the Congress of the Poles in the Czech Republic	Ministry of Culture	250,000
		Moravian-Silesian Region	74,500
	Poznejme historii s IPN (Let's Learn about History with IPN)	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	142,500

The Slovak minority

Club of Slovak Culture (CSC)	DOMUS – documentation of the Slovak Minority in the Czech Republic kept with CSC, Czechoslovak Society – exhibitions, lectures and Debates	Ministry of Culture	150,000
		Office for Slovaks Living Abroad	50,000
Slovak Evangelical Choir in Prague	History of the Slovak Evangelical Choir in Prague	Authority of the Capital City of Prague	50,000

Question No. 87. Please provide specific examples of how the Czech Republic has reflected regional or minority languages in its cultural policy abroad.

Presently, no recent examples of cultural policy specifically targeting minority languages issues are available.

Question No. 88. The Committee of Experts would welcome more information on measures taken to encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities in territories other than those in which Polish and Slovak is traditionally used.

In the form of grant programmes of the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (see Question No. 8 et seq.). The promulgation of the programmes does not limit in any way their regional scope.

Question No. 89. The Periodical Report states on page 23 that the “Trade Act (...) enables Czech citizens belonging to national minorities to communicate with administrative authorities in their own language (...)”. How are citizens belonging to national minorities made aware of this possibility ?

The implementation of this provision depends on the level of knowledge and instruction received by individual officials; otherwise, this information is included in the manual *Charta – co bychom měli vědět?* (see Question No. 72).

Question No. 90. Please complete the information contained in footnote number 28 (Periodical Report, page 23).

A typographical error, there should be no footnote number 28.

Question No. 91. To what extent do the international agreements on cultural co-operation include language issues referring to Polish and Slovak ?

Agreement between the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic and the Republic of Poland on Good Neighbourliness, Solidarity and Friendly Cooperation

Art. 6

The Parties shall guarantee that

- a) persons belonging to the national minority have the same rights and obligations as the other citizens;
- b) persons belonging to the national minority may preserve and develop their own culture in its various aspects, including language, literature and religion, and to preserve the cultural and historical heritage of their national and to participate in education in their mother tongue.

A similar provision can be found in the Agreement between the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic on Good Neighbourliness, Friendly Relations and Cooperation.

Art. 8

...persons have particularly the right ...

- to freely use their mother tongue in private and in public, to use their mother tongue in dealings with state authorities in accordance with the national legislation;
- to create appropriate forms of teaching of their own mother tongue

Question No. 92. The Committee of Experts would welcome more concrete examples of cooperation in the fields of education, culture and media at national, regional and local level.

The cooperation between Czech and Bavarian schools is based on the Protocol from the session of the Mixed Czech-Bavarian Working Group and as a part of the partnership programme. Cross-border cooperation is developed mainly at the level of involved regions; the involvement of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports is only general. Czech is taught in selected Bavarian schools in the border regions, mainly as an optional subject. Czech language lessons have been newly introduced at the Realschule Wunsiedel, where it is taught as a compulsorily optional subject. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports provides to Bavarian schools textbooks and teaching aids for Czech language lessons.

Language activities in the field of continuous education of Czech and German language teachers are also carried out on the basis of the Programme of the Czech-Saxon Mixed Working Commission. Training of Czech and German teachers of the Czech and the German language took place within the scope of the TANDEM project in border regions of the Czech Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany. See also Question No. 48.