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EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES

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

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Third periodical report

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Preliminary section

1. Introductory remarks

This third periodical report describes the implementation of the provisions of the European Charter for regional or minority languages in Norway. The languages recognized as regional or minority languages in Norway, thus granted protection by the Charter; are the Sámi language, the Kven/Finnish language, and the Romanes and Romany languages.

Reference is made to the clarification of the status of Kven language under part I paragraph 5 below.

2. Constitutional and administrative structure

In most respects, the text in this paragraph is identical to the corresponding text in the previous periodical reports. However, some of the information, facts and figures are updated and modified.

Norway is a constitutional monarchy. The Storting is Norway's national assembly. Being under parliamentary rule, the majority of the Storting determines which party or coalition of parties will have the power of Government. Norway's present government is a coalition headed by Mr. Kjell Magne Bondevik, his second government. King Harald V appointed the present government on 19 October 2001. It is a minority government representing the Christian Democratic Party, the Conservative Party and the Liberal Party. The present government has 19 members, the Prime Minister and 18 Ministers in head of 17 Ministries.

The next Parliamentary election will take place in September 2005.

The country is divided into 19 counties and 434 municipalities.

The Sámi Parliament¹ was established in 1989 pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Sámi Act. The agenda of the Sámi Parliament comprises any matter that in the view of the Sámi Parliament affects the Sámi people in particular. The Sámi Parliament may, on its own initiative, raise an issue or voice an opinion with regard to any matter within the scope of its responsibilities.

3. Economy

In 2005, Norway's gross national product amounts to a total of NOK 1 561 951 million. Gross national income amounts to NOK 1 571 293 million.

4. Demography

Norway covers an area of 385 155 square kilometres, including the Svalbard and Jan Mayen territories, and as of 1 January 2004 the population figure was 4 577 457. There has been no reliable population census of the Sámi people in either of the Nordic countries. Based on the definitions set out in the Norwegian Sámi Act, the estimated total number of Sámi population varies from 50 000 to 100 000. The majority, i.e. at least 70 per cent, lives in Norway. In 2005, a number of approximately 10 000 persons are registered on the Sámi electoral list.

There is no agreed total number of inhabitants with an ethnic minority background in Norway, since there is no statistics on ethnic affiliation. According to estimates there are, at present, approximately 10 000 - 15 000 Kvens, 1 500 - 2 000 Jews, a few hundred Skogfinns², 2 000 - 3 000 Romanies (Travellers) and 300-400 Romas (Gypsies). It should be pointed out that the figures are rather inaccurate, reflecting the number of people who claim they belong to the minority group, and not necessarily those having a fluent command of the language.

¹ The "Sámidiggi" in Sámi language

² "Skogfinn" is the Finnish speaking population living in the vast forestland near the border to Sweden.

5. The Sámi language

Norway has two official languages, Norwegian and Sámi. Norwegian is the language spoken by the majority of the people, while the Sámi language is the language of the indigenous Sámi population. The Sámi language has been recognized as a regional language, and is granted protection under Part II and Part III of the Charter. The Sámi language in Norway includes four major languages, North Sámi, South Sámi, Lule Sámi and East Sámi, with varying degree of similarities between them. The majority of the Sámi population speaks the North Sámi language.

The Sámi people are a North European ethnic minority group and the indigenous population of the vast open areas of northern Norway, Sweden Finland, and the Kola peninsula in Russia. It is estimated that approximately 25 000 people in Norway speak the Sámi language cf. a language usage survey that was completed by the Sámi Language Board in October 2000. According to the findings, 17 per cent of the respondents claimed they were Sámi speakers, which in this context was defined as being able to understand Sámi well enough to take part in a conversation conducted in Sámi.

Reference is made to the enclosed language usage report, which was commissioned by the Sámi Parliament and published in 2004: "The usage of Sámi language"³, Enclosure 1.

6. The Kven/Finnish language

The Kven/Finnish language has been recognized as a minority language in Norway, and is granted protection under Part II of the Charter.

The migration and settlement of the Kvens in Norway is part of a history of extensive colonization by Finnish peasants, almost a mass exodus from the old agricultural communities of Finland and northern Sweden. The emigration continued for several hundred years, from the 16th century up until the first half of the 19th century. Later in the 19th century modern labour migration followed in a larger scale.

The Kven/Finnish language is spoken in Troms and Finnmark, the two northernmost counties of Norway. Estimates as to the number of speakers of Kven/Finnish vary from 2 000 to 8 000, depending on the criteria and methods used.

7. Romanes

In Norway Romanes has been recognized as a non-territorial minority language, and is granted protection under Part II of the Charter.

Romanes is the language of the Roma ("Gypsy") minority in Norway. Approximately 400 people of Romanes descent have lived in Norway during the last decades, mainly in the Oslo area. Generally, it is assumed that they all have Romanes as their mother tongue. During the last decade, some Romas have come to Norway as refugees from Bosnia and Kosovo. Since there is no statistics pertaining to linguistic or ethnic affiliation in Norway (except for the Sámi electoral list), the exact number of this population group remains unascertained.

8. Romany

Romany has been recognized as a non-territorial minority language in Norway, and is granted protection under Part II of the Charter.

Romany is the language of the Romany people (or the so-called "Travellers")⁴. This minority group has lived in Norway for several centuries. The number of Romany speakers is estimated as from a few hundreds to a few thousands.

³ "Bruken av samisk språk", 2004

Part I

1. Implementation provisions

- Article 110, a of the Constitution of Norway
- Act of 18 May 1990 No. 11 relating to Place Names, Regulations of 5 July 1991 No. 456 laid down pursuant to section 12 of the Act.
- Act of 12 June 1987 No. 56 relating to the Sámi Parliament and other Sámi legal matters (the Sámi Act). Chapter 3 concerning the Sámi Language, Regulations of 30 January 1992 No. 79 regarding the language provisions of the Sámi Act, laid down pursuant to sections 3-2, 3-3, 3-7, 3-10 and 3-12 of the Sámi Act; Regulations of 31 March 1992 No. 204 laid down pursuant to section 3-8 of the Sámi Act.
- Act of 17 July 1998 No. 61 relating to Education, Regulations of 28 June 1999 No. 722 laid down pursuant to section 2-7, 6-2 and 6-3 of the Act.

Copies of these statutes were enclosed in Norway's second report to the Council. Certain amendments have been drafted with regard to the Chapter pertaining to language in The Sámi Act, and with regard to the Act relating to Place Names. A more detailed account of the amendments will follow in the paragraphs 5 and part II paragraph 2D below.

2. Bodies or organizations that work for the protection and development of regional or minority languages

Since the second periodical report, there has been some address changes concerning the following list of associations and organizations working for the protection and the promotion of minority languages in Norway:

The Sámi language

The Sámi Parliament
Department of Language
Bredbuktnesvn. 50
N-9520 Guovdageaidnu-Kautokeino
Norway

Kven/Finnish language

The Norwegian Association of Kvens /Ruijan Kveeniliitto
Hansjordnesgt. 9
9009 Tromsø

⁴ In Norwegian the designation 'tater' is often used.

Romanes language

Den Norske Rom Forening
Boks 1032 Majorstua
Majorstuveien 17
0367 Oslo

Norsk Rom-befolkning
v/Alex Karoli
Josefinesgate 10A
0351 Oslo

Foreningen Roma
v/Herman Karlsen
Lillebyveien 4
1637 Fredrikstad

International Romany Unions representative in Norway:
Raya Bielenberg
Kjelsåsveien 28 F
0488 Oslo

Romany language

The Roma Foundation/o Anne-Jorunn Merkesvik
Nettaveien 22
4275 Sævelandsvik

The National Association of the Romany people
Postboks 80
2436 Våler

Landsorganisasjonen for Romanifoket (LOR)
Vikstølen
4885 Grimstad

Romani Interesseorganisasjon
Knut Avsønsvei 13
0574 Oslo

Nordisk Romanesråd avdeling Norge
Postboks 2052
4668 Kristiansand

3. The preparation of the third periodical report

The preparation of Norway's third periodical report has been co-ordinated by the Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs and has been based on reports from other Ministries as far as their respective fields of responsibilities are concerned. By letter of 14 October 2004, the Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs invited the Ministries, the Sámi Parliament and representatives of the national minority groups to express their observations as to the current state of the minority languages, as part of the preparations for this report.

The representatives of the national minority groups received information about the preparation procedure for Norway's third report to the Council in a meeting that took place on 16 December 2004. The Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs also sent a letter of 4 February 2005 to the representatives of the Roma and the Romany communities, inviting them to give their opinions regarding the present

situation of their languages. So far, the Norwegian governmental authorities are still awaiting response from the representatives of the respective languages in this matter. However, the Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs will continue to take appropriate initiatives to follow up this matter in relation to the respective minority groups.

The report of the Committee of Experts and the Norwegian authorities' comments on the draft recommendations and observations made by the Committee of Experts have been submitted to the Sámi Parliament and representatives of the national minority groups in a letter from the Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs dated 23 January 2004.

The relevant documents have also been published on the government's internet website, ODIN, on the following address:

http://www.dep.no/kkd/norsk/samarbeid/europeisk/europa_kultur/043031-990110/dok-bn.html

4. Measures taken to spread information about the rights and duties deriving from the implementation of the Charter in Norwegian legislation

Reference is made to the statement of Norway's second report to the Council, accounting for the efforts made to communicate to the public the rights and duties deriving from the application of the Charter.

The European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages has been published in Norwegian and English on the following internet website:

<http://www.dep.no/kkd/norsk/tema/kultur/internasjonalt/043031-990071/dok-bn.html>

The Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development is regularly publishing a newsletter on government policy in matters concerning national minority groups⁵. Several issues have been dealing with the Charter for Regional and Minority Languages. Likewise, the newsletter has been made available on ODIN, the official website of the public authorities:

<http://www.dep.no/odinarkiv/norsk/dep/krd/2004/annet/016091-990083/dok-bn.html>

The governmental authorities will take measures to publish the present report in compliance with article 15, paragraph 2 of the Charter. The Norwegian governmental authorities appreciate the pertinence of the observation made by The Committee that the governmental authorities should take appropriate steps to make the reports available in Norwegian, as well as in English. The Norwegian governmental authorities recognize the importance of making the report available in Norwegian, and assessment will be made as to decide which relevant measures should be taken to implement this request from the Council of Europe.

5. Measures taken to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and comments on the observations made by the Committee of Experts

Some of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers are identical to the observations made by the Committee of Experts in their report. Therefore, in the following, comments have been made coherently to the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers.

⁵ Nasjonale minoriteter – Informasjon om statlig politikk

A. Continue to improve the dialogue and cooperation with representatives of the various regional or minority languages

The Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development undertakes to convene annual meetings with national minority language groups and relevant governmental bodies to inform about and discuss the implementation of the Charter. The last meeting took place on 16 December 2004. On that occasion, the Deputy Ministers of Culture and Church Affairs and of Local Government and Regional Development were also attending. Comprehensive presentations were given on the topic 'language and culture', followed by observations and comments from the participants. Furthermore, every six months the Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs consults with the Sámi Parliament on matters of Sámi concern, language issues being of topical interest in this context.

B. Rapidly solve the situation of the Kven/Finnish language and consult with representatives of the Kven on this matter before decision is made

In November 2001, the Committee of Ministers adopted a recommendation requesting the Norwegian authorities to clarify the status of Kven, as to whether it is a dialect of the Finnish language or a separate language of its own right. As a direct consequence of this request, the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development and the Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs commissioned a comprehensive study on the subject, carried out by Kenneth Hyltenstam, Professor at the University of Stockholm. The two Ministries stipulated the following terms of reference for his assignment:

- The study shall deliberate on the issue whether Kven is a dialect of the Finnish language or a separate language.
- The report shall outline the similarities and /or the differences between Kven and Meankieli (the Finnish language of Tornedal in Sweden).

In October 2003, the assignment was completed and the final report submitted to the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development and the Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs, Enclosure 2.

Subsequently, the report was distributed to the relevant organizations and interested parties for further examination and advice, drawing special attention to the conclusions of the chapters 6 and 7. The final date for expressing observations and opinions with regard to the report was set to 15 June 2004. These proceedings are now completed, and the Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs is at present in the process of synthesizing the various statements and drafting a policy document to the government for endorsement. The Norwegian Associations of Kvens has presented its view on this matter in a letter to the Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs in connection with the preparation of this report, Enclosure 3.

The government will debate these issues in April 2005. The government's resolution in this matter will be passed on to the Committee in due course with a statement outlining the official views and conclusions as to the status of the Kven language. Furthermore, a meeting has been convened on 26 April with the purpose of informing the minority group about the government's resolution in this matter. Representatives of the Kven Association will attend the meeting, along with representatives of the Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs, the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development and the Ministry of Education and Research.

C. Progress in establishing the Court of Inner Finnmark Court as a step to facilitate the use of Sámi before judicial authorities

In January 2004, a new district court was set up at Tana in the Inner Finnmark, where the majority of the population is Sámi speakers or bilingual. The staff at the Inner Finnmark District Court consists of a judge and officers fluent in Sámi language. This court is the first and only bilingual court in Norway, serving all citizens of the five municipalities of Karasjok, Kautokeino, Nesseby, Porsanger and Tana. These municipalities constitute, along with Kárfjord, the Sámi language administrative district in the County of Finnmark.

The accessibility of the Sámi population to the legal system is an issue that is dealt with in the Report No. 23 (2000-2001) to the Norwegian Parliament, issued by the Ministry of Justice and the Police (Enclosure 4). According to the Ministry of Justice and the Police, Norway has a particular responsibility to promote and safeguard the interests and culture of the Sámi population, and this should be reflected in the accessibility of the Sámi people to the court system.

D. Increase the efforts to preserve and promote Lule and South Sámi

Reference is made to the specific comment of the Committee of Experts, requesting the Norwegian authorities to take immediate measures to reinforce the position of the Lule and South Sámi languages.

The current situation of the Lule Sámi language

The Lule Sámi area in Norway extends from the County of Nordland and Saltenfjorden in the south, to the municipality of Ballangen in the north. The main part of this area is situated in the Nord-Salten region. Tysfjord is the municipality with the highest concentration of Lule Sámi speaking inhabitants. There has been a Sámi population in this region since the first early settlements. Usually, the indigenous Sámi people settled in the coastal areas of the fjords. The municipality of Tysfjord has now made a request to be included in the Sámi administrative district. Their request has been submitted to the Storting, and a ruling to this effect is anticipated in spring 2005.

Still, the Lule Sámi language is more often spoken "at home" than in a public context. In general, it is quite unusual to hear elderly people having a conversation in Sámi in public. For the younger generation, however, it seems more natural to speak Sámi in a broader range of contexts. The social pressure on young Sámi people to speak Norwegian is, on the other hand, quite significant. Therefore, it is important for students to be part of a Sámi speaking social environment, not only in school, but also at home and in the local community. The Lule Sámi language has not developed much new vocabulary, and it often seems to be easier for young people to speak Norwegian in their communication with each other. Estimates indicate that there are approximately 2000 Lule Sámi speakers living on the Norwegian side of the border. Some 600 persons speak the language on a regular basis.

The Sámi Language Administrative District – incorporation of the municipality of Tysfjord

At present, the Sámi administrative district encompasses the municipalities of Karasjok, Kautokeino, Nesseby, Porsanger, Tana and Kåfjord. The municipality of Tysfjord is mainly a Lule Sámi speaking community. In 2003, the Sámi Parliament adopted a resolution, requesting the government to draft a bill of amendment to the Sámi Act with regard to the provisions pertaining to linguistic matters, with the purpose of including the municipality of Tysfjord in the Sámi language administrative district. The government has submitted a bill of amendment to this effect to the Parliament.

When enacted, the amendments will imply that parliamentary rulings are no longer necessary as to determine which municipalities should be included in the Sámi administrative district. In future, such decisions can be made by governmental rulings, cf. Enclosure 5.

Participation in the Sámi language administrative district is of utmost importance with regard to improving the situation for the Lule Sámi language. The municipality of Snåsa in the South Sámi region has also made a request to be included in the Sámi language administrative district. The Ministry has initiated the process of following up this request.

The next three paragraphs are based on observations from the Sámi Parliament concerning the situation of the Lule Sámi languages and the measures taken to preserve and develop these languages.

Pre-school education

At the end of the 1980s a voluntary nursery school was set up at the small community of Drag, with the purpose of promoting the Lule Sámi language by providing Sámi parents with the opportunity of choosing instruction in Sámi language and activities in a Sámi environment for their children. Likewise, in the autumn of 1998, a Sámi nursery school was set up at Musken with the financial support from, among others, The Sámi Language Council, but it has since been closed. However, experience from Sámi nursery schools shows encouraging results. The children become bilingual in a society where the Sámi language otherwise is in a very vulnerable position.

Schools and education

Since the early 1980s, the schools at Tysfjord teach Sámi as a second language. The school at Drag has now formed separate classes where Sámi is taught as first language. In several other schools in the County of Nordland, tuition in Lule Sámi language is given on an ad hoc basis as a second language, also to students from other counties. Furthermore, the school at Hamarøy offers Lule Sámi language as first language. Due to the shortage of teachers with the relevant language qualifications, this has not been a regular option. Since 1999, The Arran Lule Sámi Centre has offered distance learning in Lule Sámi as second language. At present, tuition in Lule Sámi is also given as first language at college level. In the County of Nordland, as well as in other counties, the challenge for the school authorities is to sustain the motivation to improve the teaching in and on Sámi language to Sámi schoolchildren and students. Since the 1980s, when the teaching in Lule Sámi first started, and until the autumn of 2002, the number of pupils receiving tuition in Lule Sámi language at primary school level increased considerably. Likewise, since 1991, when teaching in and on Lule Sámi as a first language started, there has also been a significant boost in the number of pupils in primary school receiving tuition in Lule Sámi language as first language. From the school term of 2002/2003 to the school term of 2003/2004, there was, however, only a slight increase in the number of students receiving tuition in Sámi language, i.e. from 72 students to 76 students.

Mass media services

Access to the Sámi media stimulates the usage of the language in the Lule Sámi community. The first radio broadcast in Lule Sámi language took place in 1975. Later, there were radio broadcasts in Lule Sámi language once every fortnight. From 1996, the scope of the radio broadcasting services expanded to twice a week. Still, the Sámi Parliament is of the opinion that the radio broadcasting services in Lule Sámi should become even more regular. To this end, Lule Sámi speaking journalists are required in order to provide the listeners with more programme variation. Occasionally, there have been newspaper articles in Lule Sámi in the local newspaper, the "NordSalten". Since 2003, there have been regular contributions in Lule Sámi language in this newspaper.

The NRK⁶ Sámi Radio, The Sámi Parliament and the Bodø Regional University have established regional services at Tysfjord. These institutions have contributed to the creation of new employment requiring knowledge of Sámi language, culture and society, thus highlighting the Lule Sámi language. In certain contexts, the Sámi language is now written and spoken more often than before, but fewer people speak the language. The situation for the Lule Sámi language today is that it is losing ground to the majority language despite the language now being taught in nursery schools and schools. There are few social contexts where the Sámi language is spoken. Sámi language is not often heard even in Sámi schoolyards. A decade ago, the number of Lule Sámi speakers was considerably higher. Naturally, this trend has a deteriorating effect on the future prospects of the Lule Sámi language.

⁶ The Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation -NRK

The current situation of the South Sámi language

The following passages are a synthesis of observations from the Sámi Parliament concerning the situation of the South Sámi language and the measures taken to preserve and develop this language:

The South Sámi area on the Norwegian side of the border extends from Saltfjellet in the north to Elgå in Hedmark in the south. The South Sámi language is the most southern of the Sámi languages. The population is dispersed on a large geographical territory. The position of the language being rather weak, reindeer herding has taken on the most important cultural role. Hence, this tradition has meant a lot more to the South Sámi people as a group, than it has to other Sámi speaking communities in the Sámi areas. It is difficult to stipulate the exact number of South Sámi speakers because they were not included in the population census that took place in the 1970s. The Official Norwegian Report 1984:18 regarding the judicial rights of the Sámi people⁷, suggests that the South Sámi speaking population living in Norway and Sweden amounts to a total of approximately 2000 South Sámi speakers, equally divided across the border. There is, however, no exact figure as to how many actually speak the South Sámi language on a daily basis. A cautious estimate would be that less than half of the South Sámi population has a good command of the language. In 1976, The Sámi Language Council approved the orthography of the contemporary South Sámi language, as did in 1978 the former Ministry of Church and Education in Norway and the National Agency for Education in Sweden.

Schools

Within the South Sámi area, there are two Sámi schools, one at Hattfjelldal in Nordland and one at Snåsa in Nord-Trøndelag. These two Sámi schools offer extensive tuition to those who study the South Sámi language in their native municipality. The Director of Education in the County of Nordland designated The Brekken Educational Centre and the two Sámi schools as resource centres with respect to South Sámi education, assigning them with the task of carrying out the project "South Sámi tuition in local schools"⁸. This project ended in 2004. In 1995/1996 the Elgå youth centre will start tuition in South Sámi language. The secondary schools of Røros and Grong are designated as resource schools, offering tuition in South Sámi as second language. These schools also offer tuition in other schools, including schools outside the South Sámi area.

Pre-school education

Nursery schools and schools are instrumental in enhancing bilingualism. The development of Sámi nursery schools is therefore crucial, as they are considered the most efficient incentives to foster Sámi bilingualism in areas where the Sámi language has a weak position. For this reason, the Sámi Parliament has granted funding to Elgå youth centre for a five-year language motivation project. This project was initiated in the autumn of 2001 with the purpose of attracting additional resources for providing preschool children with the opportunity of learning South Sámi language at an early stage. The project has also proven to be beneficial to the school, which is located in the same building. The Sámi Parliament has also allocated ad hoc funding to a range of smaller projects in local nursery schools with South Sámi children. In the autumn of 2003, the municipality of Snåsa, in cooperation with the Sámi Parliament, established a preschool service to South Sámi children.

Conclusions

According to the Sámi Parliament, the South and Lule Sámi languages are facing challenges that are particularly linked to schooling and the educational field. Clearly, considering the scope of these future challenges, there is a need for resolute efforts to be made in many areas. The shortage of teachers with the relevant language qualifications, together with the lack of good working knowledge of the language in relation to other fields of activities, as for instance research, media, literature, development and production of teaching and learning materials, etc., is causing deterioration and stagnation of the Lule Sámi community.

⁷ NOU 1984: 18 Om samenes rettsstilling

⁸ "Sørsamisk opplæring ved heimskolen"

The current situation of the East Sámi language

The Committee of Experts has also asked for a detailed statement on the situation of the East Sámi language. The Nordic Sámi Committee has been giving policy advice to The Sámi Parliament on this matter. The Committee describes the situation of the East Sámi language in Norway as follows:

According to The Nordic Sámi Committee, only 2 - 3 elderly people in Norway have East Sámi as their mother tongue. Most of the East Sámi population lives in Finland and Russia, and the language has its origin in Russia. The East Sámi people have their own written language. They have also created and edited their own dictionary, which has been published in Finland. The East Sámi language cannot be regarded as a vivid language in Norway.

Part II

1. Article 7 – Objectives and principles

1.2. Article 7, paragraph 1 sub-paragraph a

Literature

The Arts Council Norway is the main public body allocating financial support to the publishing of fiction in Norway. While text books for primary and secondary schools and for university students are mostly published on a commercial basis with little or no public support, Norwegian fiction has since the 1960s been part of a large national programme, the State Purchasing Programme for Contemporary Fiction. Included in this programme are the books written by *all* authors living in Norway, independent of their linguistic background. A manuscript written in a minority language will be translated into Norwegian once it has been approved for publishing. For most of these books, translation costs will be met by grants from the Arts Council.

The Kven/Finnish language has until recently been a spoken language only. However, an enthusiastic schoolteacher in the northernmost region has set about to develop a new grammar and orthography while writing a four volume novel in Kven. The two first volumes received financial support from the Council as well as from other public authorities. The Arts Council has also supported the publishing of a collection of traditional songs in the Kven language, along with a Christmas magazine and translated comic strips.

In 2003 the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development allocated NOK 200 000 to the publication in Kven language of the novel "Elämän jatko - Kuosuvaaran takana" by Alf Nielsen-Børsskog. This novel was published in spring 2004, as the first ever in Kven language.

So far, no applications have been submitted to the Purchasing Programme regarding books published in Romanes or Romany languages.

Non-fiction books in Norwegian about the Sámi, the Kven or the Romany people may also receive allocations from the Arts Council.

Language and Libraries

During the past decade, the Romany people have experienced a growing understanding and recognition among the majority population for its special traditions and culture. Several CD recordings by Romany musicians have been launched during the past few years, and efforts have been made to revitalize the language, for instance by initiating a range of projects regarding registration and documentation with support from the Arts Council. The Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development has received several applications concerning measures to enhance the Romany language. In meetings with representatives of the Romany and Roma communities, public authorities have made note of their statements as to the need for resolute actions in support of the Romany and Romanes languages.

The new museum at Elverum - The Romany Section of the Regional Museum of Glomdal - will be an important site for featuring Romany culture and language. The Romany language will be demonstrated to the public in writing by attaching labels with information in Romany language to the exhibited items, and aurally, by giving visitors the opportunity of listening to the spoken language.

There is an ongoing three-year research programme under the direction of the Research Council of Norway concerning the Romany language and its linguistic origins. Representatives of the Romany people are participating in the Programme Reference Group.

The Norwegian Archives, Library and Museum Authority allocates funding to the Finnish Library Service, amounting in 2005 to NOK 307 000.

Museums and cultural buildings

Two construction projects with relevance to national minorities are now about to be completed:

- a new section designated for the presentation of the history and culture of the Romany people
- a centre designated for the preservation of the language and the culture of the Kven people.

Both projects are receiving funding from the Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs. The Directorate of Public Construction and Property⁹ is responsible for the construction works.

The Romany Section of the Regional Museum of Glomdal

The new section designated at documenting and presenting the history and culture of the Romany people will be part of The Regional Museum of Glomdal at Elverum. The budget amounts to NOK 51, 6 million. Presentations will be made by showing films as well as exhibitions. The permanent exhibition will elucidate the historical and cultural features of the Romany people, including their interaction with the greater society and the encroachments of the majority population on the minority group. According to plans, the exhibitions will expand as new knowledge is being produced and new challenges arise. Furthermore, specific temporary exhibitions will take place in relation to issues of current interest.

The list below shows some of the projects at the Regional Museum of Glomdal which have received funding from the Norwegian Archives, Library and Museum Authority:

- The history and culture of the Romany people. Development project: NOK 30 000 (the former Norwegian Museum Authority 2002)
- The “Travellers” – the history of the Romany people of Norway. Film/video: NOK 50 000 (the former Norwegian Museum Authority 2002)
- The Culture of the Romany people – compilation and presentation of factual information. NOK 515 000 (the former Norwegian Museum Authority 2001)
- The Culture of the Romany people – compilation and presentation of factual information. NOK 500 000 (the former Norwegian Museum Authority 2000)

⁹ Statsbygg

The Norwegian Archives, Library and Museum Authority has also allocated funding to other relevant projects, for instance:

- The Regional Museum of Karmsund: The Romany people – compilation and presentation of factual information. Development project: NOK 150 000 (2005)
- The Regional Museum of Telemark: Prevailing Romany values – compilation and presentation of factual information and exhibition on tour. Development project: NOK 30 000 (2005)
- The history of the Romany people of Telemark: Development project: NOK 40 000 (2004)

The Kvæntunet– a centre for Kven language and culture

The Kvæntunet¹⁰ is a new centre for Kven language and culture situated in the municipality of Porsanger. The centre will organize activities pertaining to documentation, revitalization and development of Kven language and culture. The new administration building, which is now under construction, will also include an exhibition hall. The budget for this project amounts to NOK 12 million. The building will be inaugurated in 2005.

The Norwegian Archives, Library and Museum Authority has also allocated funding to various museums. The following projects with relevance for The Kven culture have received financial support:

- The Regional Museum of Tromsø - a development project concerning “The cultural landscape deriving from the interaction of three tribes in Varanger” received financial support amounting to NOK 95 000 (2005) – also including the Sámi people.
- A study regarding interdisciplinary compilation of factual information and presentation of findings.
- The Regional Museum of Vadsø - Ruija museum of the Kvens received financial support, amounting to NOK 100 000, for a film- and video project called “Jos voisin lentää”, (The former Norwegian Museum Authority 2002).

The Arran Lule Sámi Centre

The Arran Lule Sámi Centre has completed the second stage of the construction process, partly by means of funding from the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development. The centre is accommodating the offices of the Lule Sámi Language and Study Centre, which has been established as a joint institution for cooperation and coordination between the Regional University College of Bodø, The Sámi University College, the University of Tromsø, Hamarøy secondary school, the municipality of Tysfjord and The Arran Centre. The Arran Centre offers several study options from primary school to university level, in addition to a distance learning service in Sámi language.

The Arran Lule Sámi Centre has received funding for several projects:

- Reindeer herding in the County of Nordland. Seminar: NOK 50 000 (2004)
- Sámi nomenclature. Development project: NOK 75 000 (the former Norwegian Museum Authority 2002).

¹⁰ Kvæntunet is a Kven country courtyard

Amendments to the legislation relating to place names

The purpose of the draft amendments to the provisions of Norwegian statutes and regulations concerning place names is to provide for the right of individuals and local communities to be heard in the decision process relating to the orthography of place names. At the same time, account is to be taken of linguists' assessments as to the orthography of the names in question.

The amendments include a new objects clause that specifically addresses minority rights, outlining in particular the special duty of safeguarding Sámi and Kven place names, in compliance with national statutory law and international treaties. Likewise, the amendments include a clause regarding the application of place names in minority languages, the purpose of which is to ensure that names adopted in compliance with statutory rules are applied in a public context.

Place names are an important part of the Norwegian intangible cultural heritage. From a cultural-policy point of view, it is therefore important that the legislation in this field serves the objective of preserving the authentic place names as conveyors of intangible cultural heritage and at the same time provides guidelines as to the public application of such names.

Bilingual names

Taking effect as from 1 January 2003, the County of Finnmark now has a new bilingual name endorsed by governmental decree, "Finnmark Finnmarkku (in Norwegian and Sámi language). Application of both versions is required in a public administration context, i.e. in official logos, on road signs, etc. In public contexts where written and spoken Norwegian is used, application of the Norwegian name is required. Correspondingly, in public contexts where written and spoken Sámi is used, application of the Sámi name is required. The intention of the amendment is to acknowledge and encourage the usage of Sámi language.

An equivalent application for a bilingual name from the County Council of Troms is now under consideration in the Ministry of Modernisation.

Taking effect as from 1 January 2005, governmental authorities have endorsed the modifications of the bilingual municipality names Deatnu-Tana, Gáivuotna-Kåfjord, Guovdageaidnu-Kautokeino, Kárášjohka-Karasjok and Unjárga-Nesseby. The modifications consist of eliminating the hyphen and juxtaposing the equivalent Sámi and Norwegian municipality names.

In public written and spoken communication where the Norwegian language is generally used, the Norwegian names should be applied, whereas the Sámi name should be applied in contexts where the Sámi language is generally used. In a public administration context, in announcements of the municipality as a local administration entity, in any new official logos, in the letterheads of municipal stationary, on road signs and so on, the amendment places an obligation on the public authorities to apply both names. Forms, records and maps shall reflect both versions of the name. As concerns the order of the names, the current system is to be continued, i.e. the Sámi version should be listed first as far as the municipalities within the Sámi administrative district are concerned.

Since 1 January 2004, the municipality of Porsanger has a triple name (Norwegian, Sámi and Kven/Finnish). The three versions of the name are to be applied on equal terms, and in harmony with the current use of language. Furthermore, reference is made to the above-mentioned paragraph concerning bilingual municipality names.

1.3. Article 7, paragraph 1 sub-paragraph d, Media

The regional branch office of the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation in Troms¹¹ transmits weekly a 12-minute radio broadcast in the Kven language. The broadcast mainly features news, cultural reports and interviews.

¹¹ The NRK Troms

The Kven newspaper Ruijan Kaiku was started in 1995, and has received government support since its foundation. In 2004, allocations to the newspaper were increased by NOK 250 000 to a total of NOK 600 000.

In 2003, the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development allocated the amount of NOK 200 000 for an insertion in the Lule Sámi language in the local newspaper NordSalten Blad.

1.4 Article 7, paragraph 1 sub-paragraphs f, g, h Education

The Roma people

Norwegian school authorities consider cooperation with skilled representatives from the minority communities an important prerequisite for succeeding in their efforts to introduce new measures in support of the respective minority groups. Traditionally, both the Roma and the Romany people have been living on the edge of the greater society, secluded and isolated from the majority population. Travelling is a distinctive feature of their culture, while the school is, first and foremost, an institution which is accommodating people living in permanent domiciles. Accordingly, the views of what is important knowledge are bound to differ between travelling people and permanent residents.

On this background, the government has been concentrating efforts on the liaising between school authorities and the Roma population. In Oslo, one primary and one lower secondary school have participated in a Comenius¹² project, thereby receiving information and knowledge that will enable these schools to cultivate a good relationship between the school system on one hand and the Roma parents and their children on the other. Several years after the finalization of the project, Roma parents still prefer these schools to other schools in Oslo. The local school authorities have expressed the view that their efforts have been worthwhile. There is an on-going debate in Norwegian newspapers on the education of Roma children.

As for the training of teachers, the ongoing work at the above-mentioned Oslo schools includes the teachers in the process of adapting the schools to the needs of Roma children and their parents. To the government's knowledge, there are no scholars in Norway with significant knowledge of the Romany and Romanes languages.

The Romany people

Compared to the Roma people, the situation of the Romany people (the Travellers) has improved considerably. One of the Romany organizations in Norway has set up a working group to promote their culture in the Norwegian society. The Working Group has charged the Queen Maud's College of Early Childhood Education and Care¹³ with the combined task of carrying out a survey study with regard to the specific requirements of Romany children in nursery schools and in primary schools, and developing a programme of measures and actions to meet these requirements. In 2004, the Queen Maud's College of Early Childhood Education received financial support from three ministries to this project, which will continue for three more years. Hopefully, this work could be an important step towards improving the situation for the Romany children in pre-school and in primary school.

The Ministry of Children and Family Affairs supports a project at Queen Maud's College, which aims to give ECEC¹⁴ and schools more knowledge about the Romany people.

The Lule Sámi language

In the Lule Sámi area, the foundation *Árran – Lule Sámi Centre* has developed a distance learning service in Lule Sámi language extending from primary school level to college level. These services are

¹² EU-programme regarding European Cooperation on School Education

¹³ Dronning Mauds Minne - Høgskole for førskolelærerutdanning

¹⁴ Early Childhood Education and Care

offered on a commercial basis. There are Sámi language classes both at primary and secondary level in the municipalities of Tysfjord and Hamarøy.

The South Sámi language

In 1996, a Working Group appointed by the government submitted their report on South Sámi education. One of the recommendations was to establish a distance learning service in Sámi language in addition to or in replacement of the two existing boarding schools in the South Sámi area. In January 2005, the project period turned into permanent service. The two South Sámi boarding schools will continue their present activities until further notice. Sámi language classes in the southernmost part of the South Sámi area are well established.

Teaching Finnish in Norwegian Schools

Pupils of Finnish descent attending primary and lower secondary school in Troms and Finnmark have the right to receive tuition in Finnish when required by at least three of them.

Following some years of experimenting, Finnish language was included in the Curriculum of 1997, as requested by the Norwegian Association of Kvens. In 1999, the necessary provisions were passed as a statutory right in the amendment to The Education Act. A special funding arrangement has been set up for education in Finnish, granted by the national school authorities. The number of pupils attending Finnish classes has increased from 45 pupils in 1994 to more than 1 100 pupils in 2004.

Colleges and Universities

At the University of Tromsø there are courses of studies in Finnish and Sámi up to doctorate (Ph.d.-level). Kven language is optional at the higher levels in Finnish. At the lower level, there is a 30 ECTS¹⁵ credit study in Kven language. Enrolment is feasible without meeting the formal qualifications otherwise required for admittance to higher education. For this line of study, priority is given to Kvens. At Finnmark University College, there is a 60 ECTS credit study in Finnish. At the Sámi University College, there is a 30 ECTS credit study in Finnish, optional to Norwegian as compulsory subject in teacher training. The University of Trondheim has research programmes in Romany culture.

Article 7, paragraph 3

The Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development is funding a pilot project, the purpose of which is to make Sámi youth visit secondary schools throughout the country in order to meet other Norwegian young people and pass on to them their knowledge of Sámi culture. Being a multicultural and intercultural society is an enrichment to Norway. The school has an important role to play in passing on knowledge of indigenous people and in enhancing cultural understanding and tolerance in a multicultural society.

¹⁵ European Credit Transfer System

Part III

1. Article 8 Education

A Sámi speaking student, as defined in Education Act Chapter 6, who is attending classes in a primary or in a secondary school where the teachers cannot provide tuition in Sámi language, has, if he or she so wishes, the right and the opportunity to receive tuition in Sámi language by means of distance education. In addition, individual pupils in the Sámi district, as well as groups of students in non-Sámi areas, as defined in the Education Act, have the right to receive tuition in and on Sámi language.

There is an ongoing study assessing whether or not existing statutory regulations may imply the right to tuition in and on Sámi language for adult persons. If this does not seem to be the case, the study will outline the necessary amendments to this effect, and draw up a proposal for funding a tuition programme for adults.

The teaching of Sámi language, social life and culture is compulsory in Norwegian primary and secondary education. New curricula have been drafted during 2004 and 2005. Taking account of inputs to the preparation process, knowledge of the traditional minority groups in Norway – their language, culture and social life - has now been included as a comprehensive part of the new curricula (art. 8, 1,g).

Since 1996, the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development has provided special grants to municipalities where bilingual Sámi-Norwegian primary school programmes are incurring additional costs.

In 2004, the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development granted NOK 1 000 000 for the Sámi Research Programme of the Research Council of Norway, with the purpose of encouraging the use of Sámi as the principle language medium in Sámi research. Furthermore, reference is made to the statement of Norway's second report to the Council, part III, paragraphs 1 to 1. 3.

2. Article 9 Judicial authorities

2.1 Sámi juridical terminology

The Ministry of Justice and the Police and the municipality of Tana have set up a joint project for developing Sámi juridical terminology. Both the Ministry of Justice and the Police and the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development contribute to the funding of this project. The project will give priority to the developing of terms related to for instance Criminal Law and civil law procedure. According to schedule, the project will end in August 2005.

2.2 Article 9, paragraph 3 Translation

Norway's second report to the Council gave an account of the statutes and regulations that already exist in a Sámi version. Outlined below are some of the statutes and regulations that are envisaged or in the process of being translated into Sámi language.

a) Aquaculture is an important industry along the coast of Norway. So far, however, none of the statutes and regulations concerning this area (the Aquaculture Act of 1985, subordinate legislation or administrative regulations based on this Act) have been translated into Sámi language. However, the Minister of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs has now initiated the translation into Sámi of relevant statutes and regulations.

Presently, the Ministry is drafting a bill of amendment to the provisions of the Aquaculture Act, which will be submitted to the Parliament during the first six months in 2005. According to schedule, the new Aquaculture Act shall come into force by 1 January 2006. It will be ready for translation once it has passed the Parliament in the spring session of 2005. The Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs will

also assess the further requirements concerning translation of statutory rulings and administrative regulations into Sámi language.

b) The Act concerning Patients Rights was translated into Sámi in 2004, including two principal statutory rules (respectively regarding medical records and priorities for action). Translation of further acts will follow in the years to come.

c) The Ministry of Justice and the Police has recently provided Sámi translations of the Public Administration Act and the Act relating to Public Access to Documents in the Public Administration (Freedom of Information or Transparency Act.)

d) The Government has made the decision that the Ministries should examine their respective legislation in view of observing further translation requirements. According to schedule, the Ministries have undertaken to submit a translation scheme to the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development in the course of spring 2005. In addition, devolved authorities have been requested to translate a number of regulations and public announcements.

3. Article 10 Administrative authorities and public services

3.1 Article 10, paragraph 1, sub-paragraph a

The Sámi Language Administrative District

A report of May 2002, examining the additional costs incurring from bilingualism in local and regional administration¹⁶, concluded that there is an urgent need for increasing the financial contributions to cover the current expenses incurring from bilingual administration at both local and regional level. For this reason, in compliance with the recommendations of the report, the amount of NOK 12 million has been added to the allocations for bilingual administration costs.

The Public Employment Service¹⁷

The two main objectives of the Public employment service are to help jobseekers finding jobs and to alleviate the harmful effects of unemployment. These requirements are fulfilled by providing jobseekers with information about the labour market, guidance as to how to apply for a job, and vocational and training opportunities. The service offered by the Public Employment Services to jobseekers has been designed to meet the needs of the individuals. During their first meeting with the Public Employment Service, jobseekers receive information about their rights and duties in relation to the Public Employment Service. They are encouraged to look for vacancies as actively as possible on the website www.aetat.no or elsewhere. Those who have difficulties finding work, or who are unsure of the opportunities available to them, can request counselling.

The Sámi language is, to some extent, spoken or written in most parts of the County of Troms and in the County of Finnmark, particularly in the following areas: Karasjok, Kautokeino, Tana, Nesseby and Porsanger.

In order to ensure that the Sámi speaking population may conduct their business either orally or in writing in their own language, the Public Employment Service has employed a number of Sámi speaking staff at their local labour administrations in the above-mentioned counties.

The Public Employment Service has also printed its brochure PB-0144 regarding "Information for jobseekers" in the Sámi language.

Moreover, by the second half of 2005, the Public Employment Service will make use of the Sámi version of its new "employment status form" which is now being translated into Sámi.

¹⁶ The Report "Utgifter knyttet til tospråklighet i kommune og fylkeskommune" (May 2002).

¹⁷ AETAT

The Police Services

The police within the Sámi administrative district are able to give a reply in Sámi language on those occasions where this is required in order to carry out police duties satisfactorily. There are Sámi speakers amongst the staff in all the local police districts within this area. The Ministry of Justice and the Police and the National Police Directorate provide on an annual basis additional budgetary support for the funding of Sámi language tuition for their employees within the Sámi administrative district. Sámi speakers are being prioritized as regards enrolment at the National Police Academy. The National Police Academy in Bodø annually admits about 2 - 4 Sámi speakers.

Translation of documents and interpretation services are offered in accordance with the specific requirements in each case.

The Norwegian Coastal Administration

The Norwegian Coastal Administration very rarely communicates with speakers of regional or minority languages. Interpretation services are available when required. If a letter has been submitted in a minority language, great effort will be made to give a reply in the same language.

The Social Security Administration

Usually, a person who makes an inquiry to the public social services in Sámi language, will receive a reply in Sámi. The National Insurance Administration¹⁸ has so far not yet been able to solve their practical difficulties of integrating Sámi diacritics in their computer software, which is a challenge to information and communication technology.

The Directorate of Fisheries

In general oral or written applications are not submitted to the regional branch offices of the Directorate of Fisheries. The regional branch office in the County of Finnmark reports that the County Governor's office provides bilingual assistance at request. Likewise, answers to oral inquiries may be given in Finnish.

Statistics Norway

Statistics Norway uses the Sámi names of municipalities with large Sámi populations. In connection with the national population census in 2001, a brochure and an information leaflet were prepared in Sámi language.

3.2 Article 10, paragraph 1, sub-paragraphs b and c

As stated in Norway's second report, the most important forms of the Social Security Administration are available in Sámi. In addition, the Social Security Administration has now printed a factual information leaflet regarding social security insurance¹⁹, which has been translated into Sámi. Subsequently, the statement of the second report still prevails as a relevant description of the current situation.

In 2004, The Ministry of Children and Family Affairs and the Sámi Parliament published a joint booklet with a survey of activities and services for Sámi children and young people. The publication provides

¹⁸ Rikstrygdeverket - Trygdeetaten

¹⁹ "Fakta om trygd"

references to other sources where more information is available with regard to legislation, rights and services in the fields of education, health, culture, funding, international cooperation etc. The aim is to make municipalities more aware of the rights and requirements of Sámi children and adolescents, to facilitate the access to information and making relevant information available to children, young people and their parents.

In 2004, the Directorate for Health and Social Affairs financed preparatory work concerning a study module in Sámi interpretation within the field of health and social services. This module will build on a one-year basic level interpretation education in Sámi language at the Sámi Regional College, and is expected to be optional in the near future.

The Directorate for Health and Social Affairs is producing a considerable amount of general information and information campaigns within the sector of health and social services. The number of documents translated into Sámi is increasing, particularly with regard to public health issues (for instance the anti tobacco campaign). In addition, a mapping tool for application within the public social services has been translated.

The County of Nordland operates an internet-based information service for young people regarding health and sex guidance. It is now feasible to make written inquiries and receiving a reply in Sámi. The Sámi Parliament is now in the process of assessing how a general Sámi information service for this sector should be implemented to be as efficient as possible. The Directorate for Health and Social Affairs will provide financial support to this work.

The tax return forms and guidelines for corporate and private taxpayers have been available in Sámi since the income year 2002. This also applies to the pre-filled tax return forms.

Likewise, the appendices to the tax return form for corporate taxpayers are available in Sámi language. Taxpayers who are submitting their tax returns in Sámi, will routinely receive their assessment notices in Sámi. Birth certificate forms and residence certificate forms are also available in Sámi language.

Since 2003 the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development is operating websites in Sámi language on ODIN, a portal website for public information from the government. The general objective is to make information from the Ministries and the Prime Minister's Office available in Sámi language on the ODIN websites by the end of June 2005.

3.3 Article 10, paragraph 2, sub-paragraphs a and b

Right to a reply in Sámi.

A person who makes an inquiry in Sámi to a local public body within the Sámi administrative district is by statutory provisions entitled to a reply in Sámi. However, this does not apply in the case of oral applications to officials who are carrying out their assignments outside the office of the said body.

According to the District Manager of the Regional Unit of the Correctional Service²⁰ in Finnmark, no applications or other communications have been made in Sámi as yet, and no client has requested the services of a Sámi speaking employee.

Prison institutions in Troms and Finnmark have a duty to abide by the following rules regarding the application of Sámi: Prison inmates are entitled to speak Sámi language to each other and to their visiting relatives. Prison inmates are also entitled to speak Sámi language when giving oral notice or seeking judicial remedy to the prison authorities.

The Sámi Act § 3-4 takes priority over The Execution of Sentences Act.

²⁰ Kriminalomsorgen i Norge

In this context, reference is made to a report commissioned by the Sámi Parliament regarding the usage of Sámi languages.²¹ The aim of this study was to give a detailed account of the various institutions' usage of Sámi language outside the Sámi administrative district, but within a geographical area populated by Sámi speakers, cf. Enclosure 1. The survey shows that 90 per cent of the institutions are returning an affirmative reply to the question of whether or not they are serving the Sámi population. However, the response indicates that service is only provided in Sámi language at the Sámi users' specific request. Experience shows that there is low demand for services, which are not visually displayed, or otherwise made known to the public.

With regard to the situation within the Sámi administrative district, reference is made to the statement of Norway's previous report to the Council and to the report on bilingual public service, published by the Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research²² (cf. Norway's second periodical report to the Council of March 2002, paragraph 3, 4, page 21).

3.4 Article 10, paragraph 2, sub-paragraphs c and d

Reference is made to Norway's second periodical report to the Council of March 2002, paragraph 3. 5, page 22.

3.5 Article 10, paragraph 2, sub-paragraphs e and f

Reference is made to Norway's second periodical report to the Council of March 2002, paragraph 3. 6, page 22.

3.6. Article 10, paragraph 3, sub-paragraph b

A number of standard letters and forms from The Correctional Service of Norway²³ are standard templates, which are computer generated. These documents exist in the two variants of the Norwegian language²⁴, but not in Sámi. The demand for such templates in Sámi is considered too low to justify the development costs, as the required letters are printed individually. If demand increases, there will be a reassessment of the requirements as to developing standard letters and forms in Sámi language. The inception of a Sámi Court in the municipality of Tana in 2004 necessitates the translation of a number of Acts and directives. Most likely, translation of some correctional service documents will also be required.

The prison of Tromsø has at present one Sámi speaking officer. The prison of Vadsø has a number of Sámi speaking prison officers²⁵. The local unit of the Correctional Service at Karasjok employs a Sámi speaking secretary who can provide translation and interpretation services when requested.

3.7 Article 10, paragraph 4 sub-paragraph a

The Correctional Service of Norway Staff Academy²⁶ has been instructed to give priority to Sámi speaking applicants to prison officer training, provided they are otherwise qualified. In 2004, there were three Sámi speaking applicants, the first rescinded his application, the second did not satisfy the formal requirements and only the third was enrolled.

Details about ethnic affiliation or mother tongue (first language) are not registered entries on prisoners' records. There is no intention to undertake such registration, as it is a matter of principle not to register details of ethnic descent, only citizenship. It is therefore not possible to assess the exact number of Sámi speakers passing through the correctional system.

²¹ "Bruken av samisk språk", 2004

²² Norsk Institutt for by- og regionsforskning (NIBR) Rapport 2001:17 "Tospråklig tjenesteyting"

²³ Kriminalomsorgen i Norge

²⁴ In addition to Sámi language, Norway has two variants of the Norwegian language, "bokmål", based on Danish, and "nynorsk", a synthesis of various regional dialects.

²⁵ No information as to the exact number at time of writing

²⁶ Kriminalomsorgens utdanningscenter (KRUS)

In the previous report, a statement was made to the fact that the Directorate of Taxes had an adequate number of Sámi speaking tax officials in the relevant municipalities. At present, the Directorate confirms that there is still a sufficient number of Sámi speaking tax officials to meet the need for interpretation services in Sámi.

The Directorate of Taxes has also prepared information for the branch offices, encouraging them to request the services of professional interpreters and translation services whenever this is required.

3.8 Article 10 paragraph 5

Act relating to Personal Names

By 1 January 2003, the bill of amendment concerning the Act relating to Personal Names came into force. In compliance with the new statutes and provisions, it is now viable to adopt a protected surname if it is originating from one of the great-great grandparents, i.e. a direct line of descent from ancestors four generations back, provided the surname in question has not been assumed through a former marriage. Among other reasons, this approach has been chosen in order to contribute to the mending of the unfortunate consequences of the “Norwegianization”²⁷ of the Sámi population and other minority language groups, as this policy largely led to a phase-out of their native family surnames. Furthermore, the Ministry of Justice and the Police, in their bill no. 31 to the Parliament (2001-2002)²⁸, proposing amendments to the Act relating to Personal Names, made the following statement concerning the opportunity of reintroducing surnames dating further back than the generation of the great-great grandparents:

In the case where the chosen surname has been phased out in earlier generations, the Ministry of Justice and the Police takes the view that the decision as to whether or not the person in question should be entitled to the surname, has to be considered on the basis of the assessment provisions of Article 4, first paragraph, sub-paragraph 9. If the “Norwegianization”-policy appears to be a probable accessory cause of the phase-out of a family name, the person in question should be allowed to reintroduce the name even if it is dating further back in the generation line than to the great-great grandparents. An element to be considered in the assessment of whether or not it seems likely that the “Norwegianization”-policy has led to the phase-out of the surname, is the tradition of passing on to the children their father’s family name or patronymic name as their surname. This tradition is older than, and independent from, the weaker tradition of women assuming their husbands’ family surname on marriage. The Ministry is endorsing the opinion of the Sámi Parliament that forbearance should be shown as to the requirements regarding documentary evidence of the fact that family members in a direct line of descent have used the surname in question.

The Ministry of Justice and the Police is responsible for the implementation of the Act relating to Personal Names. The provisions of this statute constitute legal endorsement of surnames in regional and minority languages.

As regards the requirements pursuant to Article 10, Paragraph 5 concerning the entry of Sámi family surnames in the national population registers; this still constitutes an information and communication technology challenge to be dealt with.

Sámi diacritics and information technology

Reference is made to the observation of the Committee of Experts, requesting Norwegian authorities to find a solution to the problems concerning the entry of Sámi family names and diacritic letters in public records. The Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development and the Ministry of Trade and Industry are now working in close conjunction with the Sámi Parliament to ensure the viability of Sámi language in a computer context. As part of the implementation of the Charter, the

²⁷ The former Norwegian assimilation policy towards the Sámi population

²⁸ Ot.prp. no. 31 (2001-2002)

government has decided that public authorities shall examine their requirements in view of necessary support for their application of Sámi language. In upgrading computer software and platforms, public authorities shall take account of their requirements in relation to application of Sámi language.

With the purpose of making it easier for public administrations to apply Sámi letters with diacritics, the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development has formed a joint competence pool of experts in Sámi language and information technology. Public administrations can address the competence pool for support. The competence pool is operating a website (www.samit.no), where users will find general information, references to legislative documents, technical specifications in relation to the application of Sámi, as well as other relevant information concerning Sámi languages.

Norway, Finland and Sweden have a joint strategy for the computer standardization of Sámi language. These issues are to be coordinated by a Working Group, established under the Nordic Committee of Senior Officials, for dealing with matters of Sámi concern. The Presidents of the Sámi Parliaments and the Ministers responsible for Sámi matters in Norway, Finland, and Sweden have made a joint request to the computer industry, inviting the industry to take steps to promote the development of support for Sámi language in their computer software as soon as possible. Due to this initiative, Microsoft has offered full integration of Sámi diacritics in their operation system Windows XP since autumn 2004.

The Social Security Administration has so far not yet been able to solve their practical difficulties of integrating Sámi diacritics in their computer software, which is a challenge to information and communication technology.

4. Article 11 Media

4.1 Article 11, paragraph 1, sub-paragraph a, iii

The Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation²⁹ - NRK - is a licence-financed, state-owned public service broadcaster. With nine radio channels and two TV channels, it is Norway's major broadcasting institution. The NRK Sámi Radio is organized as a special division, producing programmes for the Sámi population.

In 2003, the Sámi Radio broadcast a total of 1727 hours of radio, including 1 000 hours of re-runs. In addition, the Sámi Radio now broadcasts on the digital radio network (DAB).

As owner of the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation, the Minister of Culture and Church Affairs, in her capacity as general assembly, issued new regulations for the NRK in June 2004. The regulations state that the NRK in its core activity shall produce programmes of interest to a majority of the population and also attend to the interests of minority groups and other specific interest groups". In addition, the NRK shall "emphasize its role in developing and spreading Norwegian and Sámi art and culture".

The regulations also include more specific programme requirements, stating that the national service of the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation shall offer a wide range of programmes in radio and television, including i.a. "Daily broadcasts for the Sámi population" and "Programmes for national and linguistic minority groups".

The licensing terms of the commercial Norwegian public service broadcasters, TV 2 (television), Kanal 24 (radio) and P4 (radio), contain programme requirements. Long-term transmissions must contain a wide range of programmes suitable for both larger and smaller groups of viewers, including the Sámi community and other minority groups. More specifically, the licensing terms for TV 2 require separate programmes or programme items both for the Sámi population and for ethnic minority groups. The licensing terms for P4 require at least two daily newscasts in Sámi language. Moreover, the licensing terms for Kanal 24 require daily newscasts in Sámi, as well as daily items of analysis or commentary about Sámi conditions in Norwegian language.

²⁹ Norsk Rikskringkasting (NRK)

4.2 Article 11, paragraph 1, sub-paragraph b, i

The Norwegian Mass Media Authority gives consideration to applications for broadcasting licenses for local radio and television. For the period 2002 - 2006, the Authority granted license to approximately 300 local radio stations run by commercial companies, religious organizations, political parties, ethnic and linguistic minority groups, educational institutions and a range of non-profit organizations. Merely four broadcasts were transmitted in Sámi language only. In 2003, 29 local radio broadcasters produced programmes in minority languages. These broadcasters produced about 10 500 hours of local radio programmes in 21 different minority languages in 2003.

4.3 Article 11, paragraph 1, sub-paragraph c, ii

In 2003, the NRK Sámi Radio produced a total of 65 hours of television (not including re-runs). The NRK Sámi Rádío has developed, in conjunction with the Finnish YLE and the Swedish SR, a joint daily radio broadcast service and a common website. As from August 2001, the joint broadcast service expanded with daily television newscasts in Sámi language. The broadcasts are subtitled in Norwegian, enabling non-Sámi speakers to receive news and information about the Sámi society. Since November 2003, this cooperation also includes the newly established Kola Sámi Radio in Russia.

In 2003, the NRK Sámi Radio set up an editorial office for indigenous population issues in order to improve the coverage in this field, especially in television. The office has produced newscast items, and has worked on issues relating to education and the creation of a network of journalists.

According to the annual report of the commercial public service broadcaster TV 2, the channel in 2003 broadcast about 30 reports on Sámi-related matters in its news broadcasts. In addition, eight broadcasts were adapted in Sámi language, including three re-releases. The remaining programmes included four documentaries and one television feature on religious beliefs.

4.4 Article 11, paragraph 1, sub-paragraph e, i

In 1978, a state subsidy scheme for Sámi newspapers was set up. In 2004, the subsidies amounted to a total of NOK 11, 6 million.

In compliance with present statutes and regulations, subsidies are allocated to newspapers, which are addressing the Sámi population in Norway. The amount of subsidy is based on the annual number of editions and pages produced. The subsidy rates for pages produced in Norwegian and Sámi language are different, taking into account the extra costs incurring from news production in Sámi. The Mass Media Authority, a government agency under the Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs, has been assigned with the management of the subsidy scheme.

In 2004, three newspapers received subsidies: the Sámi language newspapers *Min Aigi* and *Assu*, and the Norwegian language newspaper *Ságat*. In addition, the religious magazine *Nuorttanaste* received about NOK 250 000.

4.5 Article 11, paragraph 1, sub-paragraph f, ii

The North Norwegian Film Centre³⁰ is a regional institution that grants support for the development and production of short films and videos in Northern Norway. In order to be eligible for government funding, the Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs has required that the centre annually supports the production of at least one Sámi film.

³⁰ Nordnorsk filmsenter AS

4.6 Article 11, paragraph 2

Pursuant to its obligations under the European Economic Agreement, Norway has implemented the EU-Directives on Television without Frontiers and on Television Standards. Norway is also a party to the European Convention on Transfrontier Television.

On 30 September 2004, the Storting adopted a new Article 100 of the Norwegian Constitution safeguarding freedom of expression and information. The Article states that any impediment to free speech must be justifiable in relation to the reasons behind freedom of expression, i.e. the dialectical seeking of truth, the uninhibited debate on matters of public concern in a democracy and the individual's freedom to form his or her own opinions by imparting and receiving information and ideas.

5. Article 12

Cultural activities and facilities

Literature

Since the middle of the 1970s, there has been an annual increase in the number of books published in the Sámi language, ranging from textbooks to novels and poetry, both for adults and children. When the Sámi Parliament was established in 1992, in conjunction with a Sámi Council for Cultural Affairs, the specific remit of supporting Sámi literature was passed on from The Arts Council to the new parliament. Thus, there is a division of responsibilities in this field between the Arts Council Norway and the Sámi Parliament's Council for Cultural Affairs. While the Sámi Council provides administrative allocations, the facilities and the network for handling the applications as regards the fiction to be published in Sámi language, the Arts Council handles translated books as part of the before-mentioned national purchasing programme. Normally, on an annual basis, the Arts Council will receive three to four applications within this programme from Sámi publishers concerning books for adult readers as well as for children and young people. Like all other books long-listed on the purchasing programme, the Sámi literature will be subject to a literary quality assessment. The Council will buy 1 000 copies of each book for adult readers and 1 550 copies of each book for children and young people. The books are then distributed free of charge to public libraries and school libraries.

Promotion of language

The Ministers responsible for Sámi matters and the Presidents of the Nordic Sámi Parliaments have set up a joint Nordic prize, the Gollegiella-award, as a token of acknowledgment, celebrating and highlighting the efforts and measures to promote Sámi language. The prize is awarded to persons, groups of persons, organizations or institutions in the residence states. The prize was first awarded in the autumn of 2004.

In 2004, the Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs, the Ministry of Education and Research, the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development and the Sámi Parliament allocated NOK 11, 3 million to the development of a Sámi computer correction programme. The technology of orthographic controlling and division of words is anticipated to become an important tool in the efforts of developing Sámi language.

Museums, Archives and Libraries.

Since 2002, the Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs transfers most of the national funding for Sámi cultural activities directly to the Sámi Parliament, in compliance with the general principle of subsidiarity, according to which the Sámi people should have a maximum influence on Sámi issues and activities. The Sámi Parliament then allocates the funding based on priority decisions as to the

relevant activities. These activities include the Sámi Library³¹, the management of the Sámi mobile library service, grants for Sámi artists, compensation to Sámi art institutions for public presentation of artists' performances, services related to the Sámi language provisions, administration of the provisions relating to authentic regional names, the Sámi Collections, the Sámi Music Festival and the Sámi Theatre³².

The Sámi Archives are coordinated with the National Archive Services of Norway from 2005. The purpose of the Sámi Archives remains the same, the main purpose being to compile and to make accessible information documenting the Sámi language and culture.

The National Library is in charge of the compilation of a Sámi bibliography. In addition to material in Sámi language, the bibliography includes material in other languages concerning all fields and subjects relevant to the Sámi people. More information is available on the National Library's internet website: <http://www.nb.no/baser/samisk/>

The Norwegian Archives, Library and Museum Authority has also allocated funding to various other museums. The following projects with relevance for Sámi issues have received financial support:

- The County Library of Nordland. "Writing in Sámi"- workshop – a continuation of the "Writing in Sámi"-workshop, a three-year reading and writing project for children and youth. Development project: NOK 187 000.
- The Regional Museum of Tromsø. The cultural landscape deriving from the interaction of three tribes in Varanger – a pilot study regarding interdisciplinary compilation of factual information and presentation. Development project: NOK 95 000 – also including the Kvens.
- The Regional Museum of Røros. The plurality of the South Sámi. The culture net: NOK 55 000 (2004).
- The Regional Museum of Ofoten. The Marke Sámi settlement. Film/video: NOK 20 000 (2004).
- The Sámi Collections of Varanger. The relationship between Enare and Varanger in prehistoric, historic and modern times – factual information and presentation of findings. Development project: NOK 70 000 (2003).
- The Sámi Collections of Varanger. The East and Sea Sámi duodji. Film/video: NOK 120 000 (The Norwegian Museum Authority 2000).
- The Sámi Cultural Heritage Council: a programme for preservation and management of Sámi buildings - a development project: Development project NOK 30 000 (The Norwegian Museum Authority 2000).

Sport

The Norwegian Government provides funding to The Sámi Parliament with the purpose of safeguarding and vitalizing the language, culture and social structures of the Sámi population. The Sámi Parliament allocates these funds partly to Sámi sports organizations for arranging events like sports competitions and athletic games involving typical Sámi sports activities.

³¹ Samisk Spesialbibliotek

³² Beivvas Sámi Teáhter.

Film

In 2004, the Norwegian Film Institute granted approximately NOK 200 000 to different Sámi film projects for subtitling and sound versioning of movies and videos, especially for children and young people. In addition, financial support has been allocated to the film festival at Kautokeino and the culture festival Riddu Riddu.

6. Article 13

Economic and social life

Sámi translation services and health personell with a good working knowledge of Sámi language are to some extent available at the University Hospital of North Norway and in other hospitals. Several municipalities are in the process of improving their staffs' knowledge of Sámi language and culture, especially as concerns personnel working in nursing homes and home care services.

Appendices (available from the Secretariat of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, Council of Europe, Strasbourg)

- No. 1: Bruken av Sámiisk språk – Undersøkelse 2004
- No. 2: Report from Kenneth Hyltenstam : Kvensk – språk eller dialekt?
- No. 3: Comments from the Norwegian Associations of Kvens
- No. 4: Report No. 23 (2000-2001) to the Norwegian Parliament, chapter 11
- No. 5: Ot.prp. 36 (2004-2005) Om lov om endringer i lov 12. juni 1987 nr. 56 om Sametinget og andre Sámiiske rettsforhold
- No. 6: Ot.prp. nr. 42 (2004-2005) Om lov om endringar i lov 18. mai 1990 nr. 11 om stadnamn m.m.