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**EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES**

**Fourth periodical report  
presented to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe  
in accordance with Article 15 of the Charter**

**NORWAY**

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## **European Charter for Regional or Minority Language**

### **Fourth periodical report**

**Norway**

**June 2008**

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## **Preliminary section**

### **1. Introductory remarks**

This fourth 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 language, and the Romanes and Romany languages.

### **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. Jens Stoltenberg, his second government. It was appointed by King Harald V

on 17 October 2005. It is a majority government representing the Labour Party, the Socialist Left Party and the Centre 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 2009.

The country is divided into 19 counties and 431 municipalities.

The Sámi Parliament 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 2007, Norway's gross national product amounts to a total of NOK 2, 3 billions (2 276 756 000 000). Gross national income amounts to approximately NOK 2, 3 billions (2 285 954 000 000).

### **4. Demography**

Norway covers an area of 385 155 square kilometres, including the Svalbard and Jan Mayen territories, and as of 1 January 2008 the population figure was 4 737 200. 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 12538 persons are registered on the Sámi electoral list. Updating of the number of persons registered on the Sámi electoral list will be carried out on the election in 2009.

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 Skogfinns<sup>1</sup>, 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.

### **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.

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<sup>1</sup> "Skogfinn" is the Finnish speaking population living in the vast forestland near the border to Sweden.

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 language usage report, which was commissioned by the Sámi Parliament and published in 2004: "The usage of Sámi language"<sup>2</sup>, enclosed to Norway's third rapport.

Reference is also made to relevant information on Nordic Sámi Institutes web-site, Sámi statistics: [www.Sámi-statistics.info](http://www.Sámi-statistics.info)

About Sámi language:

<http://www.Sámi-statistics.info/default.asp?nc=583&id=46>

## **6. The Kven language**

The Kven language has been recognized as a minority language in Norway by royal decree in 2005, 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

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<sup>2</sup> "Bruken av samisk språk", 2004

Romany is the language of the Romany people (or the so-called "Travellers"). 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.

## **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.
- Act no. 64 of June 2005 relating to Kindergartens

Copies of these statutes were enclosed in Norway's second report to the Council.

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

Since the third 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

## **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

The Roma Foundation c/o Anne-Jorunn Merkesvik  
Strandeveien 27a-1  
4870 Åkrehamn

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

## **Romany language**

Taternes Landsforening  
Glommengata 29  
2211 Kongsvinger

Landsorganisasjonen for Romanifoket (LOR)  
v/Bjørn Jansen  
c/o SO  
Postboks 9535 Grønland

Nordisk Romanesråd avdeling Norge  
Postboks 2052  
4668 Kristiansand

### **3. The preparation of the fourth periodical report**

The preparation of Norway's fourth 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 10 December 2007 The Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs invited the Ministries, the Sámi Parliament and the Kven to express their observations as to the current state of the minority languages, as part of the preparations for this report.

The Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs also sent a letter of 7 May 2008 to the representatives of the Roma and the Romany communities, inviting them to give their opinions regarding the present situation of their languages.

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 recommendation of the Committee of Minister and the report of Experts on the Charter have been submitted to the Sámi Parliament and relevant Ministries responsible for matters concerning the national minorities.

The relevant documents have also been published on the government's internet website, [regjeringen.no](http://www.regjeringen.no), on the following address:  
[http://www.regjeringen.no/upload/KKD/Kultur/European%20Charter\\_minoritylanguage\\_2005.pdf](http://www.regjeringen.no/upload/KKD/Kultur/European%20Charter_minoritylanguage_2005.pdf)

#### **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.regjeringen.no/upload/KKD/Kultur/Europeisk\\_pakt\\_om\\_regions-eller\\_minoritetsprak.pdf](http://www.regjeringen.no/upload/KKD/Kultur/Europeisk_pakt_om_regions-eller_minoritetsprak.pdf)

The Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion is regularly publishing a newsletter on government policy in matters concerning national minority groups. Several issues have been dealing with the Charter for Regional and Minority Languages. Likewise, the newsletter has been made available on [regjeringen.no](http://www.regjeringen.no), the official website of the public authorities:  
[http://www.regjeringen.no/nb/dep/aid/dok/tidsskrift\\_nyhetsbrev/2007/Nytt-om-nasjonale-minoriteter-.html?id=486578](http://www.regjeringen.no/nb/dep/aid/dok/tidsskrift_nyhetsbrev/2007/Nytt-om-nasjonale-minoriteter-.html?id=486578)

The governmental authorities have published 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 the report is now translated into Norwegian:  
[http://www.regjeringen.no/upload/KKD/minoritetsrapp%20til%20norsk%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.regjeringen.no/upload/KKD/minoritetsrapp%20til%20norsk%20(2).pdf)

#### **5. Measures taken to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers**

*A. Adopt a structured policy for the protection and promotion of the Kven language in co-operation with the speakers, in particular concerning standardisation of Kven, the improvement of teaching in/on Kven at all appropriate stages, and the increase of the use of Kven in the public sphere.*



The Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs allocates approximately 3, 5 mill NOK to Kainun institutti – Kvensk institutt. The centre will organize activities pertaining to documentation, revitalization and development of Kven culture and Language. In 2006 the increased allocation was earmarked to establish a Kven Language Council in connection with the recognition of Kven as a separate language.

On a conference arranged by Kainun institutti – Kvensk (KI) April 13th-14th, 2007, the Kven Language Council (Kvensk språkråd, Kainun kieliraati) was established. This council is analyzing different strategies for developing an infrastructure for the Kven language. During spring 2008 KI established a board for resolving issues on normative language development. This committee was established in cooperation with the users of the Kven language.

KI is providing the international LICHEN-project (the Linguistic and Cultural Heritage Electronic Network) with text material by transcribing old audio material. This work is financed through extraordinary and external funds

The technical basis for an electronic Kven dictionary has been developed by the University of Tromsø in cooperation with KI. At present, KI does not have resources to follow up this work.

An internet homepage for teaching materials was published in December 2007 by Ruija Forlag (publishing house), and KI has, to a certain extent, been able to publish some material.

During the period, the University of Tromsø has arranged a course in Kven language and culture.

The University of Tromsø has one representative in the Board of the KI. Two representatives from the University of Tromsø are members of the Kven Language Council (Kvensk språkråd, Kainun kieliraati)

*The conference for Kven held in Tromsø October 30th-31st, 2006.*

The conference held in Tromsø in October 30th-31st, 2006 was arranged by the University of Tromsø. The theme for the conference was formation of new words and the orthographic challenges connected to loanwords. The target group for the conference was mainly language users with academic background

### *Education*

As part of the new reform Knowledge Promotion a new subject curriculum for Finnish as a second language has been developed. It is a subject curriculum which follows the pupil all way from the 1st year of primary school to the 3rd year at upper secondary school. The subject curriculum is partly based on the The Common European Framework of Reference of Languages (CEFR) and is similar to other language curricula, such as English. But it also has its own profile with many cultural elements from the Kven culture.

[http://www.udir.no/templates/udir/TM\\_Læreplan.aspx?id=2100&laereplanid=133153](http://www.udir.no/templates/udir/TM_Læreplan.aspx?id=2100&laereplanid=133153)

The County Governor of Troms and Finnmark are responsible for further education of teachers of Finnish/the Kven language. These County Governors and the University Colleges of Tromsø and Finnmark have arranged seminars for teachers of Finnish as a second language

in 2007 and 2008. The new subject curriculum was the main focus, but the Kven culture and teaching materials were also subject to discussion.

In the White Paper "Languages Open Doors" the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research proposes to contribute to:

- further develop the cooperation between schools and other learning environments for the Kven language in Finland and Sweden
- further develop new teaching materials, both digital and others, in the languages of Finnish and Kven
- the development of the teacher competency in connection with the new subject Curriculum

### *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/Kven when at least three of them ask for it.

Following some years of experimenting, Finnish language was included in the Curriculum of 1997 as demanded by the Kven Association. The decision was verified as a statutory right in The Education Act of 1998, that came in force in 1999, and the production of teaching materials in Finnish started. In the county of Troms it was decided that the teaching aids should be ICT material. In the first period there were produced five books. Soon it became obvious that it was necessary to raise the teacher's and the pupil's ICT competence. In the period 2001- 2004 there were arranged 8 days of courses each year. The ICT education of teachers has continued up to this day.

There has been a considerable amount of documentation of Finnish/Kven culture, learning about the three tribes meeting each other in Northern Scandinavia, and use of external ICT sources and software owned by the County Governor in Troms and Finnmark.

The number of pupils attending Finnish classes in primary and lower secondary school has increased from 45 in 1994 to close to 1 100 pupils seven years later. Now the number has been about 850 for some years.

The County Governor in Troms and Nordreisa Higher Secondary School has through a number of years worked together producing Finnish learning materials. For the time being they are producing learning material for upper secondary education, with emphasis on Finnish culture found in the neighbouring countries to Finland.

Fin-Net is a programme funded by EU. It is a network for Teachers of Finnish who are building up software for role play as a method in learning Finnish language in North Norway and Sweden.

## *Literature*

The Kven language has long existed as an oral language. The written Kven language is in the process of being developed. The Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion and the Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs has therefore supported the publishing of the first novel in the Kven language *Elaman jatko 3 Rauha*, by Alf Nilsen-Børsskog. The Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion has also given financial support to a pilot project which aims at developing and equalising the Norwegian, Sámi and Kven culture in the municipality of Storfjord.

### ***B. Strengthen their efforts to provide teaching materials and teacher training for Kven, Lule and South Sámi, Romani and Romanes.***

Reference is also made to the description under recommendation A. concerning teaching materials and teacher training for Kven.

### *The situation of the Lule and South Sámi languages*

The Lule Sámi area has had a strong cultural and academic growth since the official institution [Árran - lulesami center](#) was established in 1994 in Drag, Norway. The main purpose of Arran as a national centre is to maintain and develop the Sámi language, culture and society in the Lule Sámi area. In Arran there is a museum and a Sámi kindergarten. In addition Arran works with Sámi language issues, High North issues, conducts research projects, teaches the Lule Sámi language by distance education and publishes books. Arran publishes a scientific journal and the journal "Bårjås" annually. Arran is a member of the University of the Arctic, and coordinates the work of the Sámi Institutions Network on High North Affairs ([www.arran.no](http://www.arran.no)).

At school level this means that the municipalities in which the pupils live pay for the distance education. South Sámi Distance Education on the other hand, is established as a permanent system. A committee develops and coordinates the initiatives the South Sámi Distance Education.

Today Lule Sámi is offered in pre-schools and university colleges with an increase in pupils/students at all levels.

A new development is that the County of Nordland has decided to offer a full vocational programme with all subjects taught in Lule Sámi. The vocational programme of Media and Communication will be offered in Lule Sámi at an upper secondary school in Tysfjord from August 2008. This will meet the increasing demand for Lule Sámi journalists and technicians.

There is a South Sámi cultural centre situated in Snåsa in the county of North-Troms, which was established in 1980. Saemien Sijte is not involved in any direct teaching of the South Sámi language, but it is important as a cultural focal point for the South Sámi culture. [www.saemiensijte.no](http://www.saemiensijte.no). The South Sámi division of the department of instruction, language and culture of the Sámi Parliament is situated in the same building. The South Sámi kindergarten and primary school in Snåsa with all instruction in South Sámi provide a learning environment for the South Sámi language and together with the distance education of lower secondary pupils this promises a future for more pupils at upper secondary schools with South Sámi as their first language.

The County Governor of Nordland administers the South and Lule Sámi education. The County Governor organised a conference on South Sámi Education in March 2008. This was an important meeting point for school owners, teachers, pre-school teachers and representatives from higher education. Topics such as teaching materials, teaching methods and distance education was in focus, as well as future cooperation across the Norwegian and Swedish borders.

The University College of Hamar offers courses for bilingual language teachers. South Sámi teachers from both Norway and Sweden are taking part in these programmes.

The Sámi Parliament has initialised and financed the Elgå project in the most southern part of the South Sámi area. The Elgå project shows that it is indeed possible to revitalise a language. This language motivating project has become a success. Today the children in the project use South Sámi as their language of communication while their parents lost their language. The Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion allocates yearly kr. 500.000,- to a project to strengthen south Sámi education at Elgå oppvekstsenter in the South Sámi area. One of the topics that will be discussed in the White paper on Sámi policy is how to strengthen the situation of the South Sami language.

A report of the Elgå project has been published in Diedut Nr. 1/2007 "Sámisk språk i Svahken Sijte" by the Sámi University College, Sámi Allaskuvla ([www.Sámiskhs.no](http://www.Sámiskhs.no) )

Divvun - Sámi proof reading tool, the first digital tool for spell checking in Lule and North Sámi was released in December 2007. Divvun - Sámi proof reading tool is very much appreciated by all writers of Sámi languages. It is a project receiving allocations from several ministries and run by the Sámi Parliament in order to make spell checkers for the Sámi languages. In the first phase of the project this means spell checkers and hyphenation for Northern and Lule Sámi. The tools work on Windows, Linux and Mac, with the usual office environment programs. This will be developed in South Sámi as well. See: [www.divvun.no/index.html;jsessionid=6b0ru02q5s27j](http://www.divvun.no/index.html;jsessionid=6b0ru02q5s27j)

#### *The situation for Rom and Romanes ( non-territorial languages)*

When school authorities are trying to establish new measures for minority groups, cooperation with representatives from the group is an important condition for success. Traditionally the Romany group and the Rom group have been living on the edge of the main society or left out by the majority population. Travelling is a distinctive feature of their culture, while the school is an institution made for settled people. Even the views on what is important knowledge will differ between travelling people and permanent residents.

Realising the difficulties their children have in the Norwegian society, a Romany association made contact with a pre-school teacher's college Dronning Mauds Minne Høgskolen (DMMH) and asked them to make a survey of the specific needs Romany children have in pre-school and primary school, and make a programme to meet these needs.

The preparations for the project, funded by DMMH and Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, lasted for four years. The main programme started in August 2004 and is still running. The project is funded mainly by Norwegian Directorate for Education and

Training, and in addition Ministry of Education and Research and Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion.

The project has two principal goals:

- 1) To make it possible for Romany pupils to attend school and still continue with the traditional travelling
- 2) To give the Romany culture importance in pre-school and school (Art. 7.1. a)

Head of the project, who also is the instructor for teachers and parents, is a lecturer from DMMH. The teachers participating in the project have the opportunity to learn methods and philosophy of multicultural education through their work.

The programme has become a success. Activities in school based on Romany culture have convinced a number of parents who did not want to join the activities in school earlier. Scepticism has changed to pride and joy. Norwegian parents now join arrangements made to know and gain experience with Romany culture. The number of participating schools has been about 10 the last two years.

It is decided that the project will continue from 01.01.2009 or 01.01.2010 as a permanent service for Romany children from pre-school onwards to lower secondary level.

Almost all Rom people in Norway stay in Oslo when they are not travelling. Two years ago there were 25 pupils belonging to Rom families in primary and lower secondary school. They were registered as any other pupils without recorded information about their ethnicity. Normally there were only two or three Roma pupils in each school. When on tour each family had a written agreement with the school, saying that the children in school-age were to have private instruction when the family was travelling.

New measure for the Rom pupils has been launched in primary school, but it is too early to register and analyse the results.

***C. Ensure that social and health care institutions within the Sámi administrative district offer services in Sámi.***

The proposed Sámi Information Service for the health and social services has not been implemented. The matter lost momentum as it became clear that the health authorities and the Sámi parliament had different ideas on how this could be implemented and on the usefulness of various aspects of such a service. In addition, the necessary funding was not allocated, and therefore the matter was put to rest.

In the comments to the previous report from Norway, the Committee of Experts refers to the problems experienced concerning education of professional interpreters. Due to the lack of interest shown by potential students, the Directorate for Health and Social Affairs considers a change of strategy. The Directorate may try to mobilise Sámi speakers to basic training wherever they live, rather than following a college programme. A solution is anyway urgent, as unfortunate episodes with lack of interpretation services at hospitals still take place.

The trend observed by the Committee of Experts regarding training of health and care

personnel in Sámi seems to continue. The principal problems felt by many Sámi patients are far from solved, but it should be noted that Sámi general practitioners now are available in Alta, Karasjok, Kautokeino, Porsanger and Tana (available also for patients from Nesseby). Kautokeino is for the moment the best case with two Sámi doctors and two others who are learning Sámi language. The achievements gained in the field of recruiting Sámi doctors are to a large extent the result of efforts made by the health authorities implemented by the County Governor in Finnmark. The municipalities carry the formal responsibility for recruitment and health and care service delivery themselves. Eventual involvement in the recruiting of other personnel groups from the central authorities is both a matter of resources and of finding a proper approach respecting the principle of local self government. The matter is of course even more delicate in municipalities outside the Sámi administrative area, where the Sámi needs may not be fully recognised by local administrators and politicians.

Norwegian health authorities established in 2006 a register concerning the needs of individuals who use or may use municipal care services. The purpose of the register, abbreviated IPLOS, is mainly to aid the municipalities in determining what kind and volume of care services each individual should receive, but also to produce national statistics. Information about the register and the right for users to see what is registered about them is translated to North Sámi. Information on the regulation of the right to individual plans for patients in the need for long lasting and comprehensive health and care services is in the process of translation.

From the autumn 2007, the Directorate for Health and Social Affairs employ a Sámi speaking senior adviser in community medicine. He acts as a travelling agent advocating Sámi language and Sámi cultural considerations within the services, and contributes with network building and knowledge transfer aimed at hospitals, municipalities, supervision authorities and other actors in the sector.

#### **D. Ensure that national population registers and other public institutions accept Sámi names in their correct native form**

The expert committee has previously observed that Norway does not fulfil its obligations as regards Article 10, paragraph 5. This concerns in particular the lacking possibilities of using Sámi characters in the national register.

As mentioned in previous reports, the implementation of Sámi characters etc. continues to be an ICT problem. Nevertheless, Kven characters have been implemented in the national register.

The national register supplies information to several public and private parties. The choice of format for characters and the choice of architecture are crucial for making Sámi characters legible on the screen and on print. The Directorate of Taxes will make these choices in cooperation with other important public and private users. The introduction of new standards that support Sámi characters must therefore be carried out for all users of national register information. Hence, it will still take some time before Sámi characters are implemented in this data record.

## **Part II**

### **1. Article 7 – objects and principles**

#### *Statistics*

Norwegian legislation is not open for the development of statistics based ethnicity. One reason is that many of the minority groups themselves are reluctant to registers based on ethnicity. The only exception is the Sámi electoral register which is based on self assignation.

Statistics Norway collects statistics that have been drawn up based on the geographic range for the Sámi Development Fund in Sámi settlement areas north of Saltfjellet, also known as the Sámi Development Fund area.

Reference is also made to The Nordic Institutes web site: <http://www.sami-statistics.info/>

#### *Language*

The Ministry of Labour and Social Integration is funding a research programme through the Research Council of Norway called the culture, language and the origin of the Romany people. The program started in 2004 and will be finalized by the end of 2008.

The Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs funded a language project for the romani language in 2006. The ministry allocated NOK 278 000 to Taternes Landsforening(TL).

#### *Romani Peoples Fund*

In February 1998, the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development at the time, Mrs Ragnhild Queseth Haarstad, officially apologized for the abuses committed by the Norwegian authorities against the Romani people through history.

In its Report to the Storting, the Government strongly condemns the abuses committed against the Romani people/Travellers. Moreover, the Government regrets the Norwegianization policy to which all the national minorities have been subjected, and apologizes on behalf of the state for the way in which the minorities have been treated.

On 18 June 2004, the Storting adopted a resolution to allocate NOK 75 million to a Romani People's Fund as collective compensation for earlier injustices. The annual return amounting to NOK 3.9 million will be administered by a foundation. The Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development is in dialogue with the Romani people/Travellers' organisations regarding the formulation of the mandate of the foundation and the composition of the board of the foundation in which representatives of the Romani people/Travellers are to participate.

## Cultural Projects

### 2007

<b>Application</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Allocations from Arts Council Norway</b>
Kainun institutti – Kvensk institutt	Development project about song and music on minority language for and in cooperation with the youth.	NOK 140 000 (2007 and 2008)
Taternes Landsforening (TL)/Romany organisation	Projects among young romanien in TL.	NOK 20 000
The municipality of Nordreisa	Kven Culture Festival in 2007- Promoting Kvensk Culture and traditions in the North-Troms County.	NOK 100 000

### 2006

<b>Application</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Allocations from Arts Council Norway</b>
The municipality of Nordreisa	Kvensk Culture Conferance	NOK 200 000
Dronning Mauds Minne Høgskolen	The history of the Romany People – Main project 2006-2009.	NOK 80 00

Project receiving funding from Norwegian Archives, Library and Museum Authority<sup>3</sup>

### 2008

<b>Application</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Allocations from ABM-utvikling</b>
Kainun institutti – Kvensk institutt	Safeguarding of language materials based on 420 hours of recording of kvensk dialects from 1960-1970.	NOK 50 000

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<sup>3</sup> ABM-utvikling



The Norwegian Association of local and private archives	Minorities in public archives - a study in two municipalities trying to locate archive materials written on kvensk and Sámi. An ongoing project. <a href="http://www.llp.no/index.php?id=127">http://www.llp.no/index.php?id=127</a>	NOK 400 000
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## 2007

The Norwegian Association of local and private archives	Minorities in the public archives- development project. ( Minoriteter i offentlige arkiv - utviklingsprosjekt	NOK 500 000
Nordnorsk fartøyvernsenter og Indre Sør-Troms museum	The heroes on the ocean on Sámi, Kvensk and Norwegian – a development project.	NOK 120 000

## 2006

The Museum of Tromsø	The Cultural landscape deriving from the interaction of three tribes in Varanger – a development project.	NOK 167 000
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## 2005

### *Literature*

The latest publication of the ABM-magazine contains photo reportage about the Kven and an article about the romani people's work for acceptance.

<http://www.abm-utvikling.no/publisert/abm-magasinet/abm-3-07-1>

### *Place names*

Taking effect as from 1 January 2006 the Norwegian Act of 18 May 1990 No 11 relating to Place names was amended. Consequently the regulations to the Act were also amended, taking effect as from 1 January 2007. The purpose of the amendments was 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 Sami 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 pertaining to this field serves the objective of preserving the authentic place names as a conveyor of intangible cultural heritage and also provides guidelines as to the public application of such names.

### *Bilingual official name of Troms County*

With reference to Article 7 it is decided under Norwegian law a new and bilingual official name of Troms County with effect from 01.07.2006. The new name is "Troms - Romssa" (Norwegian and the Sámi language) with compulsory usage in official logos, signboards and signposts. In official written and verbal Norwegian contexts the Norwegian name must be used. Correspondingly the Sámi name must be use in official written and verbal Sámi contexts.

From 01.01.2003 the corresponding bilingual official name of Finnmark County "Finnmark Finnmarkku" was implemented. The intention of the amendments is to support and legitimate the use of the Sámi language.

## **2. Article 7, paragraph 1 sub-paragraph f, g, h Education**

Reference is made to the description under recommendations A and B.

### *Lule Sámi*

Bodø University College (Nordland county) is responsible for the provision of study opportunities in Lule Sámi for future teachers, and always offers an optional half-year unit (30 ECTS) in Lule Sámi as part of its general and pre-school teacher education programmes.

### *South Sámi*

Nord-Trøndelag University College (Nord-Trøndelag county) is responsible for provision of programmes in South Sámi, and, like its counterpart in Bodø, always offers an optional half year unit (30 ECTS) in South Sámi as part of its general and pre-school teacher education programmes, with the possibility of a half-year extension depending on demand. Nord-Trøndelag University College also offers an optional in Music for future teachers, based on Joik, the traditional Sámi way of singing.

In addition to the above-mentioned programmes, Oslo University College offers a higher degree programme in Duodji, the traditional Sámi crafts, and this programme is of course relevant for all groups of Sámi.

### *Higher education in Kven*

The University of Oslo, the University of Tromsø and Finnmark University College all have study programmes in Finnish language, literature and culture, aimed at both the Kven and the

non-Kven parts of the population. In addition, the University of Tromsø has specific language studies in Kven.

### *Promotion of appropriate types of exchanges*

The Sámi University College, including the Nordic Sámi Institute, in itself constitutes an 'appropriate type of exchange', with its all-Nordic staff and students from all the countries with a Sámi population. The college is also active in all important international networks for indigenous peoples.

The most important international programmes for the exchanges of Sámi and Kven students are Nordplus of the Nordic Council of Ministers, and Erasmus, part of the EU Lifelong Learning Programme). Barentsplus is another relevant exchange programme, it provides for exchanges between Norway and Russia, including Sámi students. Sámi students from Russia (like other Russian students, in limited numbers) may also come to Norway for full degree studies through financing from the Norwegian Quota Scheme. Norwegian students of any origin have full portability of loans and grants from the State Educational Loan Fund and are thus free to study wherever they want, provided the study programme is recognised by the host country.

Although not directly relevant for language studies and teacher training, the University of the Arctic (UArctic), created under the Arctic Council, might also be of interest in this context. UArctic is a circumpolar cooperative network of universities, colleges, and other organizations committed to higher education and research in the North. It provides for some common study programmes with a northern dimension, including on/for indigenous peoples, and an exchange programme, which is administered by Finnmark University College.

### **3. Article 7, paragraph 3**

The Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion has since 2004 funded a project to promote mutual understanding between Sámi and non-Sámi, called Sámi pathfinders. The Sámi University College is responsible for the project. The project consists of three Sámi young people is given a scholarship to visit secondary schools throughout the country in order to get into dialogue with non-Sámi youth about Sámi culture, language and way of life. The project was evaluated in 2007. The evaluation shows that the project have a positive influence on the attitudes towards Sámi culture and way of life among the young people who has met the pathfinders. It is decided that the measure will be on permanent basis from 2008.

### **4. Article 7, paragraph 4**

The Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion and the Sámi Parliament signed in 2005 a mutual agreement on procedures for consultations between the central authorities and the Sámi Parliament. The consultation procedures apply for the Government, the Ministries, directorates and other subordinate State agencies or activities. The obligation to consult the Sámi Parliament may include all material and immaterial forms of Sámi culture including Sámi language and tuition.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion have submitted a White paper on the Sámi policy to the Norwegian Parliament in May 2008.

Questions concerning Sámi language and Sámi language education are discussed in the white paper. The Sámi Parliament are consulted about the measures that is presented in the White paper.

## Part III

### 1. Article 8 Education

#### *Kindergarten*

The new Norwegian Kindergarten Act (Act no. 64 of June 2005 relating to Kindergartens) entered into force 1 January 2006. The new Framework Plan for the Content and Tasks of Kindergartens was established by the Ministry of Education and Research 1 March 2006 and entered into force 1 August 2006. The Framework Plan is also translated into the North Sámi language. Further the ministry has made a thematic leaflet on Sámi culture, which is sent to all kindergartens in Norway. The Sámi Assembly will make further supervisory material to the Sámi kindergartens. The Sámi Assembly has screened the competence among the staff in Sámi kindergartens.

In order to secure the implementation process, the ministry has laid down a strategic plan for improving the staff's competence in all kindergartens in Norway. The ministry cooperates with the Sámi Assembly concerning the Sámi kindergartens in this field. Further the ministry has laid down a strategic plan for recruiting pre-school teachers to kindergartens. The ministry cooperates with the Sámi Assembly concerning measures taken to increase the numbers of pre-school teachers with Sámi competence.

The Sámi Parliament assigns subsidies to Sámi pre-schools, to language education and training and to information, development and guidance in Sámi pre-schools and pre-schools with Sámi children. The Sámi Parliament gives priority to allocations to initiatives in the South Sámi districts. [www.samediggi.no](http://www.samediggi.no)

The Sámi Parliament and the Ministry of Education and Research have produced a pamphlet about Sámi culture in kindergartens. It has been sent to all kindergartens and pre-schools in Norway. The pamphlet gives the staff at kindergartens and pre-schools ideas of how to teach important elements of the Sámi culture and language to children in Norway. [www.regeringen.no/upload/kilde/kd/red/2006/0107/ddd/pdfv/300464](http://www.regeringen.no/upload/kilde/kd/red/2006/0107/ddd/pdfv/300464) (temahefte om Sámsiske barns språk og kultur. pdf)

The Sámi university college, Sámi Allaskuvla ([www.Sámiskhs.no](http://www.Sámiskhs.no)) offers Sámi pre-school education. There have been pre-schools in the three Sámi language communities for several years. The courses give special education to pre-school teachers educated at an ordinary Norwegian university college, and in addition they give special courses for assistants in Sámi pre-schools.

#### *Sámi in primary, lower and upper secondary schools and in vocational training*

The Knowledge Promotion is the latest reform in the 10-year compulsory school and in upper secondary education and training in Norway. It introduces certain changes in substance, structure and organisation from the first grade in the 10-year compulsory school to the last grade in upper secondary education and training.

The goal of Knowledge Promotion is to help all pupils to develop fundamental skills that will enable them to participate actively in our society of knowledge. The Norwegian school

system is inclusive; there must be room for all. Everyone is to be given the same opportunities to develop their abilities. The Knowledge Promotion, with its special emphasis on learning, is meant to help ensure that all pupils receive a differentiated education.

The reform took effect in autumn 2006 for pupils in grades 1-9 in 10-year compulsory school and for pupils in their first year of upper secondary education and training (i.e. the 11<sup>th</sup> grade).

Learning about Sámi language, social life and culture is obligatory in Norwegian elementary and secondary education. New curricula has been developed. One of the inputs to the process has been the inclusion of knowledge of the traditional minorities in Norway their language, culture and social life.

All upper secondary schools in the county of Finnmark and some schools in the counties of Troms and Nordland offer Sámi as a separate subject. Even some pupils in the south of Norway have special courses in Sámi in upper secondary education. In Sámi primary schools and the two Sámi upper secondary schools most subjects are taught in Sámi and the pupils follow the Sámi subject curricula in these subjects.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion allocates yearly kr. 500.000, - to a project to strengthen south Sámi education at Elgå oppvekstsenter in the South Sámi area. One of the topics that will be discussed in the White paper on Sámi policy is how to strengthen the situation of the South Sámi language.

### *Sámi higher education*

There is higher education provision in three forms of Sámi in Norwegian higher education: in North Sámi, Lule Sámi and South Sámi. As the North Sámi speaking population is by far the most numerous of the three, the main offer is in North Sámi.

The University of Tromsø has an overall responsibility for provision at the master's and ph.d. levels in Sámi language and culture and an active Centre for Sámi Studies (created 1990).

North Sámi is taught at the Sámi University College (S.U.C.), which is situated in Guovdageaidnu (Kautokeino) in Finnmark county. It was established in 1989 to serve the needs of the Sámi population in terms of higher education and research in language and language development in pre-school and general teacher education, in journalism and in sustainable development, including reindeer studies. Most programmes are at the Bachelor's level. S.U.C. also provides courses in Sámi literature and in traditional crafts (Duodji). The main language of teaching, research and administration is Sámi.

As from 2005, the Nordic Sámi Institute (NSI) became part of Sámi University College. NSI receives earmarked funding from the Nordic Council of Ministers, as well as from the relevant ministries in Finland, Sweden, and Norway. It was originally founded in 1973, with the mission, through research, to strengthen and develop Sámi language, culture and social life seen in a pan-Sámi perspective. Research publication is primarily done through the journal series *Diedut*, but also through *Sámi diedalas áigecála* a journal published as a collaborative effort with the University of Tromsø's Centre for Sámi Studies. Sámi University College (<http://www.Sámiskhs.no>), has 57 staff and 173 students (2007). It provides full and part time studies, tailor-made courses and other flexible provision to suit the needs of lifelong learning. Although most of the students are Norwegian, there are also

students from Finland, Sweden and Russia. The number of students is modest, which is natural considering the small size of the Sámi population

### *Sámi in colleges and universities*

The Sámi University College has recently been united with the Nordic Sámi Institute; creating an institution which deals with both teacher training and research in various Sámi subjects see [www.Sámiskhs.no/en\\_index\\_en.html](http://www.Sámiskhs.no/en_index_en.html)

Higher education institutions in Norway are free to provide adult and continuing courses within their areas of competence. For Sámi studies, Sámi University College is particularly active in this field, with a high share of its students on part time and distance and other flexible offers. In addition, many of the 'ordinary' students at all the higher institutions are in fact mature students, and this also concerns those from the Sámi and the Kven part of the population. As a rule, all the higher education institutions with studies of particular relevance to the Sámi and Kven peoples are very sensitive to the needs of their respective target populations, and will normally do their utmost to provide courses as soon as there is sufficient demand.

### *Elementary education for Adult Sámis*

Concerning education and training organized especially for adults we refer to section 4 A-1 (the right to primary and lower secondary education for adults) and section 4 A-3 (the right to upper secondary education for adults) in the Education Act, both enclosed. These sections as a rule include Sámi pupils if they otherwise complete the conditions set here.

27 March 27 2006 The Ministry of Education and Research stated that adult Sámi persons not belonging to groups mentioned in regulations are reasonably comparable to these groups included in the regulations, have the same rights and restrictions as the comparable Sámi groups mentioned in the regulations. In addition the individual need is an important consideration.

In Finnmark, the Sámi study association has given courses for adults in Sámi language. They have also given courses in crafts, and Sámi was the teaching language in these courses.

### *Legislation and distance education*

A Sámi person as defined in Education Act chapter 6 (enclosed), who wish to receive tuition in Sámi language in primary and secondary school, has the right and the opportunity to receive such education through distant education if it cannot be provided by teachers at the school. Pupils in Sámi districts and in non Sámi districts in groups defined in the Education Act, have the right to receive tuition through the medium of Sámi language.

In the autumn 1999 The National Education Offices in the Counties of Finnmark and Nordland were instructed by The Ministry of Education and Research to run the development of Sámi distance education respectively for North Sámi language and South Sámi language - the latter in replacement for the two existing boarding schools in the south Sámi area. In January 2005 the distance education was established as a permanent service. The two south Sámi boarding schools will continue their present activity until further notice. Sámi language classes in the southern most part of the South Sámi area are well established.

The South Sámi, Lule Sámi and North Sámi systems of distant education were not coordinated while they were built up, partly because they were not constructed simultaneously, but mainly because the systems were built up fitted for the existing educational resources needed in distance education for the Sámi dialect in question.

Almost every year a conference with Sámi distance education as the main topic is arranged. The participants are representatives of school administrators on different levels, teachers, parents and experts with knowledge relevant for the conference. In 2006 a report was made that gave a description of how the Sámi distance education is structured. The report also pointed out the most needed changes.

### *Boundless in north*

This effort is from the late eighties when two schools in the Tana valley, one on the Finnish side of the river - Utsjokk school - and the other on the Norwegian side - Sirma school became aware of that the nearest school on their own side of the river was 60 -70 km away while the school on the other side of the river, in the neighbouring country, was 20 km away. All pupils in Sirma speak Sámi language as their mother tongue and Norwegian. In Utsjokk the pupils have varying conduct of Sámi and they speak Finnish.

These two schools joined forces to :

- Develop Sámi language and culture and inspire the pupils to care for their identity
- To give themselves an opportunity to learn each others languages and to know better the two countries in question
- Inspire the pupils to cherish their home surroundings on both sides of the Tana river.
- Make new acquaintances through cross cultural contact
- Get in touch with other groups of indigenous people.

The expenses on this project are paid by The County Governor in Finnmark. followed up with a plan for further development and coordination.

### *A new Sámi curriculum: Knowledge Promotion – Sámi*

Parallel to the Knowledge Promotion and built on the same principles, a new curriculum for Sámi pupils called Knowledge Promotion - Sámi has been developed and introduced in the Sámi areas within the administrative area for Sámi languages. Seventeen parallel subject curricula or subject curricula for specific Sámi subjects have been developed. This is a result of close cooperation between the Sámi parliament, the Norwegian Directorate of Education and Training and the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research. Most of these subject curricula are now in use in Sámi primary-, lower secondary and upper secondary schools. Among them are the language subject curricula for Sámi as a first language and Sámi as a second language, which according to the Education Act § 6-4 have been issued by the Sámi Parliament.

The latter is a level based syllabus with elements from the Common European Framework of Languages, CEFR.

[http://www.udir.no/templates/udir/TM\\_Læreplan.aspx?id=2100&laereplanid=204897](http://www.udir.no/templates/udir/TM_Læreplan.aspx?id=2100&laereplanid=204897)

[http://www.udir.no/templates/udir/TM\\_Læreplan.aspx?id=2100&laereplanid=208070](http://www.udir.no/templates/udir/TM_Læreplan.aspx?id=2100&laereplanid=208070)



The other subject curricula in Knowledge Promotion - Sámi are the common core subjects for primary and lower secondary level: Sámi Food and Health, Sámi Music, Duodji (handicraft), Sámi Natural Science, Sámi Social Studies, Sámi Christianity, Religion and Ethics and Norwegian for pupils with Sámi as their first language. For upper secondary level the following common core subjects have been developed: Sámi History, Sámi Geography and Sámi Religion and Ethics.

All these subject curricula mentioned above are parallel subject curricula issued by the Ministry of Education and Research. In addition the Sámi Parliament has issued the following curricula for specific Sámi subjects: Sámi History and Society, Sámi Music and Scene and Sámi Visual Culture in the programmes for general studies and Design and Duodji and Reindeer herding for vocational programmes.

A new reform with many new subject curricula creates a natural demand for new teaching materials and further teacher training. This is a challenge for the whole Sámi community. The Sámi Parliament is responsible for the development of teaching materials in Sámi in all Sámi subjects in Knowledge Promotion - Sámi. The Sámi Parliament is therefore developing a strategic plan for the production of teaching books and other materials both digital and others - in the subjects of Knowledge Promotion - Sámi. At the moment the possibility of translating Norwegian teaching materials for the Knowledge Promotion into Sámi is subject to discussion. The strategic plan will be presented to the Ministry of Education and Research in the spring of 2008.

#### *Teaching in and translation to/from Sámi*

The new Sámi content in the national curriculum will consequently have to be reflected in the national training of new teachers and further training for teachers in service. The Directorate of Education and Training has in cooperation with the Sámi University College developed *Gávnos - ideas for course makers in higher education as a compliment to Gávnos - resources and ideas for teachers in Norway* ([www.skolenettet.no/gavnos](http://www.skolenettet.no/gavnos)). The County Governors of Troms and Nordland and the Sámi University College in cooperation with Oslo University College have arranged seminars about the Sámi content during 2007. All this forms a good starting point for further development of the Sámi content in teacher training programmes in Norway.

The reputation of Sámi culture in the local areas has changed considerably and positively during the last decades. This is manifested by the fact that the municipality of Tysfjord joined the administrative area for the Sámi language in 2006 and the municipality of Snåsa joined the administrative area for the Sámi language in 2008. This means an overall strengthening of the status and usage of the Lule and South Sámi languages.

#### *Education of Sámi history and culture*

The Sámi Parliament has issued the Sámi content in national curricula of Knowledge Promotion (See enclosed Education Act § 6-4). Today there is Sámi content in almost all national subject curricula. Sámi culture and language have never been more visible in the national curriculum of Norway. In fact, the Sámi content represents a new element for most upper secondary teachers in Norway. This creates a great demand for teaching materials about

the Sámi and ideas of how to teach the Sámi content among teachers. In order to meet this the Directorate of Education and Training has in cooperation with the Sámi University College developed Gávnos - resources and ideas for teachers ([www.skolenettet.no/gavnos](http://www.skolenettet.no/gavnos))

A demand for knowledge about the national minorities is also included in the national curricula of Knowledge Promotion, such as in the subject curricula Social Science and History.

The production of teaching books and other materials about the Sámi and the Kvens teaching books in Sámi for all new subjects in Knowledge Promotion - Sámi is a challenge for the publishing houses in Norway. Quality and correctness are key words here.

### *Sámi spell-check program*

The Sámi Parliament has since 2004 been working on a project to develop Sámi spellchecker for electronic executive work. The project has been funded by the Sámi Parliament and several ministries. The spellchecker for north- and luleSámi was completed in 2007. The objection for the next phase in the project is to develop a spellchecker for south Sámi by the end of 2010.

This technology will be of great importance as a remedy to enhance the use of Sámi written language. One objective is that this technology will help persons who do not feel sure about their control of written Sámi still can express themselves in writing. The technology will also be an important remedy in education and language tuition.

### *Supervisory bodies*

The County Governors inspect and report on the implementation of Knowledge Promotion. The Sámi Parliament is together with the Directorate of Education and Training responsible for giving information and advice on the implementation of Knowledge Promotion - Sámi. As mentioned above, the Sámi parliament issues the Sámi content, which is a legislative right as the subject curricula are regulations (Education Act § 6-4).

## **2. Article 9 Judicial authorities**

### *Judicial terminology*

The Municipality of Tana has been responsible for two projects for developing Sámi juridical terminology. The first project was finished in 2005. The second project is still in progress. The project has given priority to developing terms related to Criminal Law and civil Law procedure. The Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion contribute to the funding of this project. When the terminology is passed by the Sámi Parliament it will be placed on a web site.

### *The National Courts Administration*

With the exception of the municipalities Tysfjord and Snåsa, the geographical and political area for the Sámi language is concentrated to Inner Finnmark District Court. The north sámí language is here an integrated language in the court, in accordance with the rights set forth in the sámí act. The content of the pact from the Council of Europe is therefore relatively well complied with in the Norwegian courts.

The National Courts Administration (NCA) is continuously working with the task of translating information related to the Judiciary to the north sámi language. This work is done in co-operation with Inner Finnmark District Court and court officials in that court. Among other things is the national web site for the Judiciary translated to the north sámi language to a great extent.

Furthermore, the NCA is working with the task of translating templates in the courts electronic case processing system to the north sámi language. This work is a result of a decision from the board of the NCA, stating that the NCA must strive to translate as many templates as possible into the north sámi language. However, this work is complicated due to the fact that the north sámi language does not contain the juridical terminology that the templates require. The University of Tromsø is for the time being developing such juridical terminology in the north sámi language. Hopefully this development will help solve these problems.

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Language</b>	<b>District Court</b>	<b>Court of Appeal</b>
Karasjok, Kautokeino, Nesseby, Porsanger, Tana	Finnmark	North- Sámi	Inner Finnmark District Court	Hålogaland Court of Appeal
Kåfjord	Troms	North- Sámi	Nord Troms District Court	Hålogaland Court of Appeal
Tysfjord	Nordland	LuleSámisk	Ofoten District Court	Hålogaland Court of Appeal
Snåsa	Nord Trøndelag	South-Sámi	Inderøy District Court	Frostating Court of Appeal

### 3. Article 9, paragraph 3 Translation

- The Ministry for the Environment has effectuated the translation of several secondary laws concerning for the preservation of nature in Finnmark county into Sámi. The agreement between the Sámi Parliament and the Ministry for the Environment on guidelines for protection plans according to the Nature Conservation Act is also translated into Sámi. These documents are not available in printed form, but may be found at the ministry's Internet sites.
- The Cultural Heritage Act is translated into Sámi and is available both in printed form and at the Internet.
- There are also plans for translating the new Planning and Building Act into Sámi.
- In connection with the local and regional elections this year, the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development translated the election brochure (brochure to all households) to the North Sami and Lule Sami languages, see: <http://www.regjeringen.no/nb/dep/krd/kampanjer/valg/Brosjyre-2.html?id=477503>

- The brochures were published at [www.valg.no](http://www.valg.no) . The brochure in the North Sami language was also printed and distributed to all households in 6 municipalities (Nesseby, Tana Karasjok, Kautokeino, Porsanger and Kåfjord). Three notification adds that were placed in the newspapers were translated to the Sami language in the Sami newspapers.
- As stated previously in the former report, latest as of first half-year 2005, the most central Acts (the Taxation Act, the Act Relating to Value Added Tax, the Tax Administration Act, the Tax Payment Act) have not been translated into Sámi. However, important sections of the regulations have been translated into Sámi as instructions and income tax forms.
- Since the previous report, the Act on Mental Health Care and the Act on Specialised Health Services are translated to North Sámi.
- The Governments official website [www.regjeringen.no](http://www.regjeringen.no) has pages of public information in Sámi language. The Sámi website includes the Sámi Act and other Acts translated to Sámi. The Governments official website also includes white papers, propositions and press releases on Sámi matters and matters concerning Sámi people translated into Sámi.
- The new Norwegian Kindergarten Act (Act no. 64 of June 2005 relating to Kindergartens) is translated into the North Sámi language.
- The draft amendments to the regulations on press subsidies for Sámi newspapers (see the report on Article 11 below) were circulated for comment inn both Norwegian and Sámi versions.

### *Legal documents in Sámi*

The legislation concerning instruction in and on Sámi is regulated in the Norwegian Education Act, chapter 6 (enclosed). This will be translated into Sámi in the near future. The Norwegian Directorate of Education and Training publish educational materials in Sámi, eg. about assessment and national tests. All subject curricula in Knowledge Promotion – Sámi are published and distributed in printed versions in North Sámi and the language subject curricula are published in all three Sámi languages [www.udir.no](http://www.udir.no)

#### **4. Article 10 Administrative authorities and public services**

##### *The directorate of labour and welfare (NAV)*

The directorate of labour and welfare (NAV) has decided that information on benefits and rights within the area of responsibility of the directorate shall be available in Sámi language. The need for knowledge of Sámi language and culture shall be considered when local offices within the labour and welfare administration are established in Sámi areas.

##### *Statistics Norway*

Statistics Norway publishes statistics on Sámi issues on a separate site on [www.ssb.no/samer](http://www.ssb.no/samer). In addition, new statistics on the Sameting election in 2005, published on [ssb.no](http://ssb.no), were published in Sámi.

Statistics Norway also publishes statistics in Sámi in the series Official Statistics of Norway, Sámi statistics (D384). This publication contains statistics of relevance for Sámi issues in Norway. The approach is mainly geographic, focusing on Sámi settlement patterns north of Saltfjellet. The publication also contains some statistics on national level. The publication is based on statistics that have been collected and published previously or material that has been made available from various Sámi institutions. Together, this provides an up-to-date presentation of Sámi statistics. The publication is available in Norwegian and Northern Sámi. Statistics Norway uses names of counties and municipalities in Sámi where relevant.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion has increased the budget of the Sámi Parliament for 2008 with Nkr.5 million to cover the expenses of the incorporation of the municipality of Snåsa to the Sámi language administrative district.

##### *Directorate of Taxes*

In the previous report it was stated that the Directorate of Taxes had an adequate number of Sámi-speaking tax officials in the relevant municipalities. The Directorate confirms today that there still are enough Sámi-speaking tax officials to meet the need for interpretation into Sámi.

The Directorate of Taxes has also prepared information for subsidiary offices inviting them to use professional interpreters and interpretation services when this is necessary. Most forms that may be relevant have been translated into Sámi. The tax returns and instructions for self-employed taxpayers, private employees and retired taxpayers have been

available in Sámi since the income year 2002. This also applies for the pre-filled return. The appendices to the tax return form for self-employed taxpayers are also available in Sámi. Persons that hand in Sámi tax returns will also receive their tax statements in Sámi. A birth certificate form and residence certificate form in Sámi are also available.

#### *East Finnmark Police Authority*

East Finnmark Police Authority has carried out extensive alternations to the civil legal procedures. In this connection letters sent by the authority to people involved in certain of civil proceedings' have been translated into the Sámi language. In total this amounts approximately 200 "standard letters". This has been done in order to conform to regulations in the Sámi Law and to safeguard the legal protection of the Sámi population.

#### *West Finnmark Police Authority*

West Finnmark Police Authority has requested that the Sámi College if possible establish a course in the Sámi language and Sámi culture for their employees starting in the autumn 2008.

#### *The Correctional Service*

To our knowledge, one Sámi speaking student from the Correctional Service of Norway Staff Academy will start working in Tromsø prison after completing the training programme this year. The prison will then have two Sámi speaking officers.

The Correctional Service has experienced difficulties in recruiting Sámi speaking students to the Correctional Service of Norway Staff Academy. During the last few years, only a few Sámi speaking students have been enrolled at the Staff Academy each year. In 2007 there was one. The Norwegian Correctional Service endeavours to ensure that there is a sufficient number of Sámi speaking officers in the prisons where most needed.

However, a separate training unit for prison officers will be established in Tromsø in May 2008. Tromsø is situated in Troms County and there will be made efforts to recruit as many Sámi speaking students as possible.

Sámi speakers are being prioritized as regards enrolment at the Norwegian Police University College. The Norwegian Police University College has also strengthened its focus on recruiting Sámi speakers. As part of this the Sámi language is used when recruiting in the northern regions.

#### **5. Article 10, paragraph 5**

A norm for Sámi characters in computer technology was adopted in the autumn of 2007. The aim is that most of the official registers in Norway shall be able to use the Sámi characters by the end of 2009.

For further information see comments under part I, paragraph 5 recommendations D.

#### **6. Article 11 Media**

##### **Article 11, paragraph 1, sub-paragraph a, iii**

The Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation<sup>29</sup> – the NRK – is a licence-financed, state-owned public service broadcaster. With fourteen radio channels and three 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.

The licensing terms of the commercial Norwegian public service broadcasters, TV 2 (television), Radio Norge (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 Radio Norge require daily newscasts in Sámi, as well as daily items of analysis or commentary about Sámi conditions in Norwegian language.

##### **Article 11, paragraph 1, sub-paragraph b, i**

The Norwegian Media Authority (“Medietilsynet”) gives consideration to applications for broadcasting licenses for local radio and television. For the period 2009–2015, the Norwegian Media Authority recently granted 248 licenses to 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.

##### **Article 11, paragraph 1, sub-paragraph c, ii**

In 2007, the NRK Sámi Radio produced a total of 131 hours of television and 1679 hours of radio. In addition, the Sámi Radio broadcasts on the digital radio network (DAB). Both for radio and television, the amount of output has increased. 57 per cent of the Sámi speaking population uses one or more of the NRK Sámi Radio services on a daily basis.

In 2007, the NRK Sámi Radio moved its Internet service to nrk.no. The number of users has grown rapidly since the service was re-launched in March 2007. The average use per month has increased from under 14 000 unique users to approximately 21 000 unique users. The

NRK Sámi Radio now directs its efforts towards building up the website as the main platform for news updates both in Sámi and Norwegian language.

The regional offices in Tysfjord and Snåsa were strengthened in 2007, which has contributed to larger content diversity and geographical diversity in the Sámi newscast in both radio and TV. The TV programmes in the mentioned regional offices are made in Lule and South Sámi. These two Sámi dialects are thereby broadcast weekly on nationwide TV in NRK1.

According to the annual report of the commercial public service broadcaster TV 2, the channel in 2007 broadcast about 14 programmes and 36 reports on Sámi-related matters. Radio channel Kanal 24 (now called Radio Norge) broadcast 11 hours of programming for the Sámi population in 2007. Radio channel P4 broadcast 634 newscasts in Sámi language in 2007, which sums up to approximately 23 hours.

#### **Article 11, paragraph 1, sub-paragraph e, i**

In 1978, a state subsidy scheme for Sámi newspapers was set up. In 2008, the subsidies amount to a total of NOK 18,9 million.

In compliance with present statutes and regulations, subsidies are allocated to newspapers specifically addressing the Sámi population in Norway. The basic subsidy which is divided equally between the newspapers eligible for subsidy constitutes 90 % of the total grant. The remaining 10 % is subsidy is calculated based on the annual number of editions and pages produced in Sámi language, reflecting the extra costs incurring from news production in Sámi. The scheme is managed by the Norwegian Media Authority, a government agency under the Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs.

In 2007, three newspapers received production subsidies; the Sámi language newspapers *Min Áigi* and *Ássu*, and the Norwegian language newspaper *Sáogat*. In addition the religious magazine *Nuorttanaste* received about NOK 250.000 and one local newspaper (*Lokalavisa NordSalten*) received subsidies for the production of editorial content in Lule-Sámi.

Because of a considerable budget increase from 2007 to 2008 (NOK 5 million) and the merger of two of the three newspapers receiving such subsidies, the Ministry revised the regulations on press subsidies for Sámi newspapers. After a public hearing and formal consultations with the Sámi Parliament the Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs adopted new regulations 13 June 2008. The amendments imply that a larger share of the subsidies will go to newspapers using Sámi, and the aim is to protect and promote the use of Sámi languages in the public sphere.

#### **Article 11, paragraph 1, sub-paragraph f, ii**

The regulations on state support for audiovisual productions, ensures Norwegian and Sámi languages equal status in all support schemes managed by the Norwegian Film Institute.

The North Norwegian Film Centre has a particular responsibility for support for Sámi films. The Film Centre 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. It is also possible to apply to the Sámi Culture Fund for Sámi film productions. The Fund is managed by the Sámi Parliament.

#### **Article 11, paragraph 1, sub-paragraph g**

No further comments to this article.



## 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.

## 7. Article 12 Cultural activities and facilities

### *Cultural projects*

<b>Application</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Allocations from Arts Council Norway</b>
A training and education centre in Gildeskål	Collection of pite Sámi words	NOK 50 000
Davvi Girji OS	Publication of Magnar Mikkelsen: Storytelling from Finnmark (1978)	NOK 40 000
Davvi Girji OS	Odd Mathis Hætta: Sámi traditions and practice (publication)	NOK 30 000
Davvi Girji OS	Sámi school history part 2	NOK 75 000
Project leader Svein Kristiansen c/o Prosjektus NUF	Teather performance. Translation from Sámi to Norwegian. Based on the works of Nils Aslak Valkeapä	NOK 13 000

*Allocations from Norwegian Archives, Library and Museum Authority*

<b>Application</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Allocations from Norwegian Archives, Library and Museum Authority</b>
Várjjat Sámi Museua / The Sámi Collections of Varanger /Varanger Sámmisk Museum	Sámi mythology and religion – culture on the internet.	NOK 100 000
The County Library of Nordland	Writing in Sámi- a three-year reading and writing project for children and youth- a development project.	NOK 187 000

*Language*

Gollegiella - Nordic Sámi language prize is awarded for the third time in 2008. The prize is awarded to persons, groups or organisations in Sweden, Finland, Russia or Norway for their efforts to promote the Sámi language. The prize is 12 500 euro.

In 2006 the prize was awarded to Juoni Moshnikoff for his efforts and measures to promote the East- Sámi language and to Harald Gaski for his work for Sámi language and Sámi literature.

In 2004 the prize was awarded to Ella Holm Bull, Snåsa, and Enaresamisk Association ved Matti Morotaja in Finland.

*Cultural buildings*

*Sami archives:* The foundation stone for the new localities of the Sami archives was laid down in 2007, and construction has begun. The localities will be part of the Kautokeino science building, which will be completed in 2009.

*East Sami museum in Neiden in Sør-Varanger:* This is a new initiative, and for that reason it does not yet have its own localities. The construction of the museum started in 2007 and will be completed in the fall of 2008. The museum will present East Sami culture and history. It will contain exhibitions, workshops, offices and more.

National performance arena for national and international folk music, joik (traditional Sami chant) and folk dance in Oslo: Planned date of completion in 2009.

*Aja Sami Center in Kåffjord:* The center contains a number of municipal functions, and it houses among others NRK Sami radio and the Sami parliament. The center has expanded several times and is now planning a new expansion to house a museum and a Sami library. There is no set time frame for this project, but it is assumed that the expansion can be completed in 2010.

*Saemien Sijte in Snåsa* is responsible for the conservation and presentation of the South Sami culture. The institution needs to expand in order to house a new permanent exhibition and an auditorium, among other things. Pre-project planning is in progress.

### *Film*

For more than 15 years the Norwegian Film Institute has arranged for subtitling and sound versioning of films in the three different Sámi languages, especially for children and young people. The sound versioning is done in co-operation with the NRK Sámi Radio and the Sámi Parliament. In the spring of 2007 the Norwegian Film Institute released the first DVD containing short films for children, versioned into Northern Sámi, South Sámi and Lule Sámi languages.

In addition, financial support has been allocated to the film festival at Kautokeino and the culture festival Riddu Riddu.

## **8. Article 13 Economic and social life**

Reference is made to the statement under part I paragraph 5 recommendation C.

## **Appendix**

- No. 1: Comments from the Kainun institutti – Kvensk institutt.
- No. 2: Evaluering av samelovens språkregler
- White paper on the Sámi policy. See:

<http://www.regjeringen.no/pages/2077889/PDFS/STM200720080028000DDDPDFS.pdf>