

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

ACFC/SR/IV(2017)001

Fourth Report submitted by Slovenia pursuant to Article 25,
paragraph 2 of the Framework Convention for the Protection of
National Minorities

(Received on 6 January 2017)

Fourth Periodic Report of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on the
Implementation of the Framework Convention of the Council of Europe for
the Protection of National Minorities in Slovenia

(10 November 2016)

INTRODUCTION

On 25 February 1998, Slovenia ratified the Council of Europe's Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, one of the foremost international instruments on minority protection. The Convention contains no definition of the concept of national minority. Therefore, each State Party may decide which ethnic groups on its territory are to be given the status of national minorities as defined by the Convention. Upon ratifying the Framework Convention, the Republic of Slovenia, in compliance with the Constitution and its national legislation, declared in writing that the autochthonous Italian and Hungarian national communities in Slovenia shall be regarded as national minorities. Insofar as this does not contravene the Constitution or other legislative acts (the legal order), the provisions of the Framework Convention shall also apply to members of the Roma community living in Slovenia.

Slovenia guarantees members of national minorities special constitutional rights, as follows: as well as to individual members of minorities, it guarantees rights to communities; it guarantees representation in state and local representative bodies, regardless of the number of minority members; it has explicitly committed to materially and morally support the exercise of these rights.¹

The statutory rights of traditional minorities are stipulated in articles 5, 11, 61, 62, and 64 of the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia (Official Gazette Nos. 33/91-I, 42/97 – UZS68, 66/00 – UZ80, 24/03 – UZ3a, 47, 68, 69/04 – UZ14, 69/04 – UZ43, 69/04 – UZ50, 68/06 – UZ121, 140, 143, 47/13 – UZ148, and 47/13 – UZ90, 97, 99, hereinafter 'the Constitution'). Their status and the method of exercising their rights are also regulated by laws and other regulations and legal instruments. Since members of all minorities are Slovenian citizens, it is especially important that they be accorded a special status by the state. The collective rights of the Italian and Hungarian national communities are stipulated by the Constitution, while the collective rights of Roma are stipulated by a separate act.

The Roma Community Act (Official Gazette No. 33/07), adopted on the basis of the Constitution, marked a milestone in improving the status of the Roma community in Slovenia. Equally important was the National Programme of Measures for Roma of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Period 2010–2015, which included all areas where special measures were needed to improve the situation of

¹ "According to Slovenia's constitutional order, everyone, regardless of nationality, is guaranteed the right to freely express their national affiliation, foster their culture and use their language and script, particularly in proceedings before courts and other public authorities that take decisions on rights. In addition, the autochthonous Italian and Hungarian national communities have been granted special collective rights (free use of national symbols, education in their own language, right to develop relations with their nations of origin, establishment of self-governing communities, representation in representative bodies, consent in adoption of regulations concerning their rights). Roma enjoy only a number of these collective rights, such as municipal council representation."
(*Ustavnopravno varstvo manjšinskih narodnih skupnosti v Sloveniji* (Constitutional protection of minority ethnic groups in Slovenia), Ciril Ribičič, 2004, <https://revus.revues.org/1530>)

members of the Roma community, guarantee them equal opportunities and provide opportunities for the expression, preservation and development of the languages, cultures, and identities of different parts of the Roma community as a minority in Slovenia.

PART I

Practical arrangements made at the national level for following up the results of the third monitoring cycle on the implementation of commitments under the Framework Convention of the Council of Europe for the Protection of National Minorities in the Republic of Slovenia

- a) Steps taken to publicise the results of the third monitoring cycle (Opinion, State comments, Resolution): publication, dissemination and translation into the official language(s) and minority language(s) where appropriate

Slovenia notes that the Third Opinion of the Advisory Committee on the Implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities on Slovenia and the Comments of the Government of Slovenia on the Opinion of the Advisory Committee on the Implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in Slovenia were published on the archival website of the state authority responsible for national minorities.²

Pursuant to the Constitution and having regard to the provisions of the Framework Convention of the Council of Europe for the Protection of National Minorities (hereinafter 'the Framework Convention'), which entered into force in the Republic of Slovenia on 1 July 1998, and of the Roma Community Act (Official Gazette No. 33/07), by decision No. 09501-2/2010/8 of 18 March 2010, the Government adopted the National Programme of Measures for Roma of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Period 2010–2015 (hereinafter 'the National Programme').³

At the end of 2015, the National Programme expired, and the competent authority for national minorities is drafting a new document aimed at implementing the constitutional and statutory provisions, as well as those included in the Framework Convention that concern the Roma community. In addition, the Government Office for National Minorities serves as the national contact point for the EU's National Roma Integration Strategy.

In July 2013, the National Assembly adopted the Resolution on the National Programme for Language Policy 2014–2018 (Official Gazette No. 62/13).⁴ Pursuant to

² Published on the former website of the Office: <http://www.arhiv.uvn.gov.si/> (archival website, last updated on 17 March 2012). The new website of the Government Office for National Minorities is available at: <http://www.un.gov.si/>.

³ Published on the website of the Government Office for National Minorities at: http://www.un.gov.si/fileadmin/un.gov.si/pageuploads/Program_ukrepov.pdf.

⁴ The current National Programme stipulates that "Slovene language policy must put in place adequate measures in order to achieve two things: that the Slovene language remains the prevalent choice for native speakers to the largest possible extent in both private and public use," while being aware of "the particular responsibility of such policy to Slovenes who live outside the national borders and take into consideration all speakers whose mother tongue is not Slovene: members of the Hungarian and Italian national minorities, the Roma community, immigrants, and all other people who are or who wish to be in contact with Slovene whether within the borders of the Republic of Slovenia or beyond." (Resolution on the National Programme for Language Policy 2014–2018 (Official Gazette No. 62/13).

the Resolution, the issues of bilingual business operations and the use of Italian and Hungarian are part of Slovenia's overall language policy.

With a view to implementing the provisions of the Framework Convention and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, the Government on 23 July 2015 adopted Decision No. 61400-2/2015/5, which contains the Programme of Measures of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Implementation of Regulations on Bilingualism for the 2015–2018 Period⁵.

- b) Any follow-up activities organised at national, regional and local levels, including activities organised jointly with the Council of Europe, such as discussions, seminars, evaluations, impact assessments, studies etc., and the outcomes of these events

On 4 and 5 June 2016, CoE experts paid a thematic visit concerning the empowerment of Roma youth and the participation of young people in national Roma integration strategies, which included an exchange of experience and a presentation of organisations that are concerned with Roma youth in practice and involved in activities to foster the social inclusion and education of Roma youth. The visit was organised by the competent authorities for national minorities and youth and the Ad hoc Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (CAHROM).

The participants at the opening event were welcomed by representatives of Slovenian state authorities, the CAHROM Chair, and the Secretary, who is also the Head of Inter-governmental Cooperation, Anti-Gypsyism and Roma Equality Unit and a member of the Roma SRSB support team. Representatives of the Roma Community Council, of the Roma Academic Club and of different public institutions shared their experience.

During a thematic conference, representatives of Slovenian authorities presented youth policy measures, the education of Roma, the general situation of the Roma community and the statutory regulation of its status, particularly the National Programme and the Roma Community Act. They went on to discuss youth policies and related activities and measures aimed at guaranteeing the positive discrimination of Roma youth organisations in Slovenia, present initiatives to foster and improve the conditions for organised youth activities and youth organisations, with an emphasis on those that include Roma youth, as well as activities aimed at fostering youth work and informal learning focused on young Roma, and at promoting and enhancing European cooperation among young people.

Council of Europe representatives presented activities for young people, focusing on the Roma Youth Action Plan, and the work of the CoE Advisory Council on Youth regarding Roma youth. During an in-depth discussion, the participants exchanged experience on the empowerment of Roma youth and made a brief analysis of current challenges and needs of the Roma community.

⁵ Published on the website of the Government Office for National Minorities at: http://www.un.gov.si/fileadmin/un.gov.si/pageuploads/Nacrt_ukrepov.pdf

The second part of the thematic conference was dedicated to Roma organisations, successful Roma education projects, and a project to raise awareness among civil servants. Based on the information acquired, the expert group published a thematic report.⁶

Through the ministry responsible for education, a two-day seminar on Romani as a European Minority Language was organised on 6 and 7 July 2015 in cooperation with the Graz-based European Centre for Modern Languages of the Council of Europe. The seminar was part of a European Commission-financed project, QualiRom, providing quality education in Romani for Europe, which was implemented between 2011 and 2013. It is described in more detail in Part II of the report.

The *Romano kher – Roma House* project, carried out between 2010 and 2014 by the beneficiary, The Mura Regional Development Agency, consisted of training for Roma job seekers. The objective was to bolster their confidence, improve their self-esteem and equip them with knowledge enabling them to successfully enter the labour market through tutoring, which has proven the most successful method. A Roma Employment Agent was introduced, providing Roma with the information needed to enter the job market, assisting them in finding potential employers, and assisting employers in contacts with this target group. Workshops for Roma councillors were included in the project, as the promotion of the interests of Roma and political representation are crucial to guaranteeing labour market equality. These events contributed to the networking of Roma councillors, adding to the exchange of experience and knowledge. The third part of the project involved the establishment of a Roma academic network, providing links between students at the University of Ljubljana and Roma representatives and activists, with a view to raising their social capital. It is described in more detail in Part II of the report.⁷

In 2012, the Ministry of Culture commissioned a study entitled 'The Ethnic Vitality of Areas Inhabited by Small Minority Ethnic Communities and Autochthonous Peoples'⁸, which was aimed at identifying the cultural needs and their expression in areas populated by small ethnic groups, such as Gottschee German settlers, Serbs in Bela Krajina and Croats along the border with Croatia. The study concerns historical ethnic groups in Slovenia which are not recognised by the constitution or legislation, their societies, funding, forms of activity and the expression of cultural needs in the field of language education, organisation of events, lectures and exhibitions, publishing, the preservation of cultural and natural heritage, tourism, cross-border cooperation, and any activities aimed at achieving an appropriate legal status. The

⁶ More information is available on the website of the Government Office for National Minorities at: http://www.un.gov.si/si/medijsko_sredisce/novica/archive/2015/6/select/sporocilo_za_javnost/artic/e/12447/5850/ and http://www.un.gov.si/si/medijsko_sredisce/novica/archive/2015/6/select/sporocilo_za_javnost/artic/e/12447/5851/

⁷ More information is available at <http://www.romanokher.si/>

⁸ More information is available on the website of the Ministry of Culture at: http://www.mk.gov.si/fileadmin/mk.gov.si/pageuploads/Ministrstvo/raziskave-analize/kulturne_raznolikosti_in_clovekove_pravice/Raziskovalno_porocilo-CPKR.pdf

study shows that special attention should be paid to regional integration and to maintaining local identities.

The groups concerned are relatively small and require specific measures to preserve their cultural heritage and more funds earmarked in the state budget, which was taken into account in the National Programme for Culture 2014–2017. The issue is described in more detail in Part II of the report.

In 2014, the Institute for Ethnic Studies and the Hungarian National Self-Governing Community of the Prekmurje Region conducted a case study on the ethnic, cultural and linguistic diversity in the ethnically mixed area of Prekmurje. The purpose of the pilot study was to collect data, on the basis of which the impact of the existing model of minority protection can be evaluated.⁹

In 2015, the Slovenian President, Borut Pahor, hosted a round table, The guaranteed rights of the autochthonous Italian and Hungarian national communities and their implementation, which was organised on the initiative of their respective deputies.¹⁰

- c) Participation of minority organisations and other non-governmental organisations in the authorities' implementation and monitoring of the Framework Convention, and their involvement in the preparation of the fourth report

The National Programme of Measures for Roma of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Period 2010–2015, which is aimed at implementing and monitoring the provisions of the Framework Convention, was drafted by a dedicated working group appointed by the Government and comprising representatives of the relevant ministries and government services, certain self-governing local communities, and of the Roma community. The working group conducted specific consultations on separate chapters of the programme, which always included representatives of the Roma community. The National Programme was considered and approved by the Government Commission for the Protection of the Roma Ethnic Community. Following wide public debate and consultations with both representative associations of municipalities, the relevant proposals were included in the text to the greatest extent possible. At the end of 2015, the National Programme expired, and the competent authority for national minorities began drafting a new document.

Contact persons within individual ministries were appointed to coordinate the drafting and cooperate closely with the competent authority. The Roma Community Council, which is the umbrella organisation of the Roma community in Slovenia, and self-governing local communities in which Roma live have been important partners

⁹ For more information, see: MEDVEŠEK, Mojca, BEŠTER, Romana. *Institucionalna dvojezičnost v Prekmurju* (Institutional bilingualism in Prekmurje). In: GRAFENAUER, Danijel (ed.), MUNDA HIRNÖK, Katalin (ed.). *Raznolikost v raziskovanju etničnosti: izbrani pogledi* (Diversity in ethnic research: selected views). Ljubljana: Institute for Ethnic Studies, 2016, pp. 168–190

¹⁰ More information is available at (<http://www.up-rs.si/up-rs/uprs.nsf/objave/C7625140C977223FC1257E600047F0E5?OpenDocument>)

in the drafting of the new programme document and represent an invaluable source of information on concrete measures and of proposals on solutions needed. Representatives of the Roma Community Council have also participated in all meetings concerning the drafting of the document, and the new programme outlines have taken into consideration concerns and proposals voiced by various NGOs and other civil society organisations.¹¹

The draft Resolution on the National Programme for Language Policy for the 2014–2018 period and both action plans prepared according to it (on language education and on language reference tools, respectively) were also subject to public debate. National communities were thus able to comment on all three documents.

On 23 July 2015, the Government adopted Decision No. 61400-2/2015/5, which contains a Programme of Measures of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Implementation of Regulations on Bilingualism for the 2015–2018 Period. The working sub-group for drafting the action plan was comprised of representatives of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of the Interior and Public Administration, of the Government Office for National Minorities, and of the Coastal Italian Self-governing Community and the Hungarian Self-governing National Community of Pomurje.

- d) Any other measures taken to promote awareness of the Framework Convention among national minorities, public officials and the general public

On 1 February 2011, the National Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Status of National Communities of Members of Nations of the Former SFRY in the Republic of Slovenia (Official Gazette No. 7/11), bearing in mind the wishes and expectations of their members, the options available, as well as the recommendations of the Council of Europe, the United Nations, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the European Union, which, in addition to individual rights, underline the possibilities for the exercise of collective rights of ethnic groups. In this regard, the Framework Convention explicitly refers to the efforts of the states Parties to take account of the real needs of persons belonging to national minorities in areas "inhabited by them traditionally" or "in substantial numbers"¹².

With reference to the implementation of provisions of the Framework Convention and in connection with the Programme of Measures of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Implementation of Regulations on Bilingualism for the 2015–2018 Period of 23 July 2015, awareness-raising measures should be noted, including the system for providing general information and e-services at the e-

¹¹ E.g. the concerns voiced by these organisations to international institutions regarding the status of Roma women and men in Slovenia, together with their specific proposals upon the invitation to cooperate by the authority responsible for national minorities. The input from these organisations has been considered by all relevant bodies, which have tried to include the proposals in the drafting of measures in order to enhance and ameliorate legal bases and activities in various domains.

¹² More information is available on the website of the Legal Information System at: <http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=DEKL32>

Government web portal. Since 2009, the portal has included dedicated sub-portals in the languages of the two national communities, i.e. Italian and Hungarian. The legal basis for these sub-portals is the Decree on Administrative Operations (Official Gazette No. 20/2005, as amended), according to which all key events registered on the State Portal of the Republic of Slovenia should also be available in the Italian and Hungarian languages.

Ministries and other administrative authorities publish their own summaries of administrative services in their remit, while the ministry responsible for public administration provides the technology tool for publication. The descriptions are accompanied by forms, and electronic filing is possible where feasible. A series of 17 key events for citizens and 4 for legal entities is available in all linguistic versions. The home pages of the sub-portals and static content have been translated and adapted for the Italian and Hungarian versions. The descriptions of available services are not merely Italian or Hungarian translations; their content has been adapted to the needs of the national communities (e.g. issuing of an identity card). Based on the frequency of use and user responses, a catalogue of the most commonly used services has been compiled, informing the translation and publication on the e-Government portal. The catalogue is not exhaustive and is constantly updated. The Italian and Hungarian language versions currently contain translations of 99 services and the competent ministry is striving to publish as many electronic forms in Italian and Hungarian as possible.¹³

¹³ More information is available on the website of the Government Office for National Minorities at: http://www.un.gov.si/fileadmin/un.gov.si/pageuploads/Nacrt_ukrepov.pdf, pp. 18 and 19.

PART II

Answers to issues requiring immediate action:

1. Take, as a matter of priority, all measures to ensure that effective remedies are available to potential victims of discrimination; intensify actions to raise awareness of discrimination-related issues in society, including in the judiciary and law enforcement agencies.

Through its competent ministry, Slovenia strives earnestly to raise awareness of this issue in the judicial system. This year, the Judicial Training Centre organised a special section on hate speech within its civil justice training for judges, and on hate speech and racial discrimination within its European law training. In autumn this year, Italian and Hungarian legal terminology seminars were organised for judges and court staff in bilingual areas.

The procedures for identifying discrimination, consistent response methods and awareness raising are among the main duties of the police and are included in their annual plan of work, in their Medium-term Plan of Work and Development for the period 2013–2017, the Resolution on the National Programme of Crime Prevention and Suppression for 2012–2016, and in other strategic documents. With a view to raising awareness of discrimination, the Police Academy created a special training programme, FA012 – Recognising stereotypes, overcoming prejudice and eliminating discrimination in a multicultural society, which was confirmed by the Programming Board of the Police Academy in 2009, and is aimed at acquiring the knowledge needed to recognise and understand various form of discrimination. Police officers are trained to respond appropriately when dealing with persons who are 'different', relegated to the margins of society, socially excluded due to their origin, values, lifestyle, orientation (sexual, religious, political, etc.) or personal characteristics. Trainees learn about social stereotypes and prejudice which can lead to discrimination, they learn about and understand the role and importance of human rights declarations and conventions; familiarise themselves with different EU countries' police approaches to preventing discrimination; become aware of their own prejudices and the need to overcome them in their work; learn about different forms of discrimination, ways and possibilities to suppress them in Slovenia; develop empathy with 'different', marginalised and socially excluded individuals, and understand the importance of dialogue and form partnerships with representatives of communities which could be at risk of discrimination.

The Police Academy has been providing this training for police officers since 2009, and since 2013, for other civil servants who regularly encounter Roma, members of the Italian and Hungarian national communities and other minority ethnic groups members as part of their work. The training of police officers and civil servants is included in the annual plan of work of the Police, and is among the proposed measures to be included in the programme document for Roma under preparation.

Through its competent ministry and a special fund, Slovenia strives to ensure that all procedures for allocating funds are carried out in accordance with the applicable legislation, which provides sufficient legal remedies. Special measures (calls for applications) targeting different minority ethnic groups greatly contribute to raising public awareness of their culture, thus reducing the risk of discrimination.

On 24 May 2016, the Protection against Discrimination Act entered into force (Official Gazette, No. 33/16); it provides a comprehensive approach to regulating protection against discrimination and a basis for the establishment and work of the Advocate for the Principle of Equality as an independent and specialised body to combat discrimination.

The essential parts of the new act are:

- definition of personal circumstances (sex, nationality, race or ethnic background, religion or belief, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, social position, property, education or any other personal circumstance) and areas of social life in which equal treatment is ensured and discrimination prohibited (especially employment, education, training, access to goods and services, social protection and social benefits);
- definition of discriminatory acts (direct and indirect discrimination, harassment and sexual harassment, instructions to discriminate, incitement to discriminate, victimisation) and definition of serious forms of discrimination (multiple and mass discrimination, persistent or repeated discrimination with consequences that are difficult to remedy);
- establishment of sanctions in cases of violation of the ban on discrimination;
- designation of bodies entrusted with tasks and competences to promote and implement the principle of equal treatment;
- definition of inspection responsibilities of the Advocate and ensuring appropriate protection against discrimination in accordance with European directives;
- possibilities for the participation of non-governmental organisations and the Advocate in legal and administrative proceedings in order to increase the effectiveness.

The act also regulates anew the establishment of the Advocate of the principle of equality and its status; its main tasks include:

- ensuring independent assistance to persons subject to discrimination through counselling and legal advice, as well as assistance in legal proceedings;
- conducting inspection in accordance with the Act's provisions;
- conducting independent studies, research, analyses and monitoring the situation;
- publishing independent reports and producing recommendations, including proposals for special measures;
- raising public awareness;
- exchanging all available information with relevant EU bodies.

2. Ensure that Roma representatives are able to take part in public affairs at local level in all the municipalities in which they live in substantial numbers; take further steps to provide elected Roma councillors with all the support the need to carry out their tasks effectively, including adequate training; ensure that the Roma Community Council adequately represents the diversity of groups within the Roma community.

Experience in working with members of the Roma ethnic community has shown that the endeavours of Slovenia's national authorities and municipalities cannot achieve optimum results in resolving Roma issues without including Roma themselves in these activities.

As regards the inclusion of members of the Roma community in the public administration at the local level, it needs to be emphasised that members of the Roma community have the general voting right to which they are entitled as Slovenian citizens, and also a special voting right in the twenty municipalities where they have been historically present, which enables them to elect their own representatives to the municipal council. In certain municipalities in which Roma have no representative on the municipal council, special municipal working bodies are set up to monitor the situation of the Roma community in which Roma may collaborate with the municipality and present their own initiatives and proposals.

In the discussion on the Fourth Report on the Situation of the Roma Community in Slovenia (28 August 2015), the Government considered the activities carried out at the national and local levels (in the previous year) with the aim of improving the situation of the Roma community, along with the findings and suggestions for further action. According to the Government, progress has been slow but steady in all areas covered by the Roma Community Act and the National Programme. The Government is aware that more tangible results can only be expected in the long term, since social inclusion is a complex and long-term process which requires systematic and persistent engagement for the benefit of the Roma community and the wider population. Such a process calls for close and constructive partnership between all parties engaged at the national and local levels, and Roma in particular, because all measures will be to no avail without their cooperation. As in 2015 the National Programme expired, now is the right time to reflect on experience acquired, the needs of Roma community members and the most effective means to achieve the goals foreseen in the national programme for the coming five-year period. The new national programme will have to put additional focus on intolerance of Roma and hate speech, eliminating prejudices and stereotypes concerning Roma in the media and in society at large, and enhanced dialogue and cooperation between relevant state and local authorities, the Roma community and civil society organisations. New measures will have to be formulated on the basis of common grounds and an exchange of experience, with the aim of improving the Roma community's situation and, in many cases, the quality of life of the local population.

Roma are represented on city and municipal councils as stipulated in the act regulating local self-government. Additionally, the Roma Community Act (Official Gazette No. 33/2007) provides for the exercise of special rights of the Roma community with regard to participation in decision-making on public affairs concerning Roma. In municipalities in which a representative of the Roma community is elected to the city or municipal council, in accordance with the Local Self-Government Act (Official Gazette No. 94/07 – official consolidated text, 76/08, 79/09, 51/10, 40/12 and 14/15), a special body is established within the municipal council to monitor the situation of the Roma community. In 2002, the Forum of Roma Councillors was established to enhance the political action of Roma in Slovenia. During the 2010–2014 term, Roma were represented on the councils of the following municipalities: Beltinci, Cankova, Črenšovci, Črnomelj, Dobrovnik, Grosuplje, Kočevje, Krško, Kuzma, Lendava, Metlika, Murska Sobota, Novo Mesto, Puconci, Rogaševci, Semič, Šentjernej, Tišina, Trebnje in Turnišče.

Regular local elections to representative bodies of self-governing local communities (municipalities) were held on 5 October 2014, concomitantly with regular elections for representatives of the Roma community to municipal councils, as per Article 39 of Local Self-Government Act. Out of 20 municipalities obliged to ensure a representative of the Roma community in the municipal council in accordance with the Local Self-Government Act, elections were held in 19 municipalities. Once again, the municipality of Grosuplje failed to ensure the Roma community the right to a representative on the municipal council by failing to nominate electoral bodies to conduct regular elections; therefore, the National Electoral Commission conducted the elections instead of the municipality, as stipulated by the provisions of Article 39 of the Local Self-Government Act. The elections were held on 12 April 2015.

In the regular elections of Roma representatives to municipal councils in October 2014, 28 candidates stood for election (6 women and 22 men), of whom 19 were elected as representatives of the Roma community on municipal councils, i.e. 5 women and 14 men.

On 14 September 2014, the Voting Rights Register Act entered into force (Official Gazette No. 98/2013). The act introduced changes regarding the registering of voting rights of citizens of the Republic of Slovenia, members of the Roma community, which affect the exercise of their special voting right under Article 7 of the Local Elections Act (Official Gazette Nos. 94/07 – official consolidated text, 45/08, and 83/12).

The Ministry of the Interior informed the Roma Community Council of the Republic of Slovenia (which participated in the drafting of the legislation in 2013) and all municipalities in which Roma community members have the right to vote, about the amendments to the Act.

The Roma Community Council of the Republic of Slovenia was established on 20 June 2007 in accordance with the Roma Community Act. Its tasks, which are broadly defined by the Act, include: addressing issues related to the interests, status and

rights of the Roma community; presenting proposals and initiatives to competent authorities; promoting activities for the preservation of Romani and the Roma culture; encouraging and organising cultural, informative, publishing and other activities significant for the development of the Roma community; developing and maintaining contacts with Roma organisations in other countries that represent the interests of the Roma community in relation to state institutions. The Roma Community Council of the Republic of Slovenia is a body governed by public law. It comprises 21 members, of which 14 representatives of the Roma Union of Slovenia and 7 representatives of the Roma community on city/municipal councils from the self-governing local communities as stipulated by the Local Self-Government Act.

The functioning of the Roma Community Council of the Republic of Slovenia and its tasks are defined in detail in its Rules of Procedure (Official Gazette, No. 94/2007).

According to the Roma Community Act, the Council may submit proposals, initiatives, and opinions on matters within its competence to the National Assembly, the National Council, and the Government and other state authorities, bearers of public authority, and the bodies of self-governing local communities, which must in turn obtain a preliminary opinion from the Council when adopting or drafting regulations and other general legal acts concerning the status of the Roma community.

The *Romano kher – Roma house* project, carried out by the Mura Regional Development Agency in partnership with the Forum of Roma Councillors of Slovenia between 2011 and 2014, consisted of training for Roma job seekers. The objective was to bolster confidence among Roma, improve their self-esteem and equip them with knowledge enabling them to successfully enter the labour market through tutoring, which has proven to be the most successful method. A Roma Employment Agent was introduced, providing Roma with all the information necessary to enter the job market, assisting them in finding potential employers, and assisting employers in making contact with this target group. The project also included workshops for Roma councillors, as the promotion of the interests of Roma and their political representation is crucial to guaranteeing labour market equality. These events contributed to the networking of Roma councillors, adding to the exchange of experience and knowledge. The third part of the project involved the establishment of a Roma academic network, providing links between students at the University of Ljubljana and Roma representatives and activists in order to increase their social capital.

In four years, 56 Roma participated in the project and underwent training; moreover, 19 jobs were created, 5 posts within the Roma Development Agency for Roma who contributed their ideas, innovations and projects to the benefit of the Roma community, and an additional 14 for the target group of Roma who found jobs with other employers. With its one-to-one approach, which proved to be a success, the project provided comprehensive support for the inclusion of Roma, the creation of new possibilities of access to the labour market, and their employment. Although this is not a new approach to including vulnerable target groups in the labour

market, it has proven to be good practice, which is why the implementing partner decided to broaden its scope and intensify its implementation.

3. Ensure effective involvement of minority representatives in discussions on any administrative change that could have an impact on minority protection; in particular, take measures to guarantee that the protection of persons belonging to national minorities will not diminish as a result of the creation of the municipality of Ankaran/Ancarano.

Chapter III of the Basic Constitutional Charter on the Sovereignty and Independence of the Republic of Slovenia (Official Gazette No. 1-4/91-I) to the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia provides the following definition: "The Italian and Hungarian national communities in the Republic of Slovenia and their members shall be guaranteed all the rights provided in the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia and international agreements."

Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia:

Article 5

"In its own territory, the state shall protect human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall protect and guarantee the rights of the autochthonous Italian and Hungarian national communities. ..."

Article 11

– "The official language in Slovenia is Slovene. In those municipalities where Italian or Hungarian national communities reside, Italian or Hungarian shall also be official languages."

Article 61

– Expression of National Affiliation

Article 62 – Right to Use One's Language and Script

Article 64

(Special Rights of the Autochthonous Italian and Hungarian National Communities in Slovenia):

- the right to use their national symbols freely;
- in order to preserve their national identity, the right to establish organisations and develop economic, cultural, scientific and research activities, as well as activities in the field of public media and publishing;
- the right to education and schooling in their own languages, as well as the right to establish and develop such education and schooling (the geographic areas in which bilingual schools are compulsory shall be established by law);
- the right to foster relations with their nations of origin and their respective countries;

- the right to establish their own self-governing communities to exercise their rights;
- the right to be directly represented in representative bodies of local self-government and in the National Assembly;
- the rights shall be guaranteed irrespective of the number of members of these communities.

Article 64, Paragraph 5 of the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia stipulates that “Laws, regulations and other general acts that concern the exercise of rights and status of the national communities provided for by the Constitution, may not be adopted without the consent of representatives of these national communities.” Additionally, Article 15, Paragraph 2 of the Self-Governing National Communities Act (Official Gazette No. 65/94) stipulates that: “If municipal bodies decide on other issues related to the implementation of the special rights of ethnic communities, they must acquire the prior opinion of the self-governing ethnic community.”

Article 80

(Composition and Election)

“The National Assembly is composed of deputies of the citizens of Slovenia and comprises ninety deputies. Deputies are elected by universal, equal, direct, and secret voting. One deputy of the Italian and one deputy of the Hungarian national communities shall always be elected to the National Assembly. The electoral system shall be regulated by a law passed by the National Assembly by a two-thirds majority vote of all deputies. Deputies, except for the deputies of the national communities, are elected according to the principle of proportional representation with a four-percent threshold required for election to the National Assembly, with due consideration that voters have a decisive influence on the allocation of seats to the candidates.”

3. Self-Governing National Communities Act (Official Gazette No. 65/94)

Article 1 stipulates:

“For the implementation of special rights, guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia, for the promotion of their needs and interests, and for organised participation in public matters, members of the Italian and Hungarian national communities establish, in regions of their autochthonous settlement, self-governing ethnic communities”; this provides a further operational basis for implementing the constitutional rights of the Italian and Hungarian national communities.

Members of the Italian and Hungarian national communities are also guaranteed certain rights that apply outside ethnically mixed areas (e.g. entry in a special electoral register for the election of a deputy to the National Assembly, the right to learn one’s native language outside the ethnically mixed area under certain conditions).

Members of the Italian national community are represented on the RTV Slovenia Council with one representative. In addition, the RTV Slovenia Council appoints programme councils for minority programmes on which two thirds of the members are from the two national communities. The same applies to the representatives of the Hungarian national community.

The status of the national communities is defined in over 90 sector-specific laws, regulations, ordinances and statutes of municipalities in ethnically mixed areas, in other legal instruments, interstate treaties or agreements and international conventions ratified by the Republic of Slovenia.¹⁴

Through the competent ministry, Slovenia is trying to ensure that the Italian national community in the new, fourth coastal municipality of Ankaran has at least the same position and conditions for operation as those guaranteed in the three other coastal municipalities, Koper, Izola and Piran.

The municipality of Ankaran was established on 9 June 2011 by a decision of the Constitutional Court, with the first elections to municipal bodies to be held within the regular local elections in 2014.¹⁵

According to the applicable statutes, in each of the coastal municipalities with autochthonous Italian communities, one of the deputy mayors must be a member of the Italian national community. The Italian national community also elects councillors who represent it on the municipal council. In the Ankaran municipality, 8 councillors are elected based on the general voting right, and one councillor, a member of the Italian national community, based on the special voting right.

In the context of European integration processes, the municipality of Ankaran, which borders on Italy, can make an important contribution to raising inter-cultural dialogue and multilingualism.

In accordance with the legal order of the Republic of Slovenia, the Italian national community is organised within the Coastal Italian Self-Governing Community. This is an umbrella organisation and is, as such, an interlocutor of state bodies in the municipalities of Koper, Izola, Piran, and Ankaran, which have an autochthonous

¹⁴ 'The constitutional and legal situation of the Italian and Hungarian national minority', published on the website of the Government Office for National Minorities: http://www.un.gov.si/si/manjsine/italijanska_narodna_skupnost/ustavno_pravni_polozaj/

¹⁵ The establishment of the municipality of Ankaran did not affect the rights of the Italian national community. The municipality of Ankaran includes the town of Ankaran that was already part of the ethnically mixed area in the past; moreover, Article 4 (autochthonous Italian national community) of the new Ankaran municipality statute stipulates: (1) The area of the Ankaran municipality is an ethnically mixed area consisting of Slovenian and Italian national communities. (2) In accordance with the Constitution, the Act and this Statute, the municipality ensures its inhabitants who are members of the autochthonous Italian national community the conditions that enable them to preserve and express their national identity. (3) This Statute defines the ways in which the special rights of the autochthonous Italian national community are to be exercised in the municipality.

Italian population. The Coastal Italian Self-Governing Community is a body governed by public law.

Regardless of the fact that the situation is well regulated, the authorities intend to further improve the protection of rights in municipalities with a minority population. In the past, the coastal municipalities (the Slovenian Istria region) were very active, particularly in ensuring bilingualism and other rights, while the municipalities in North-East Slovenia (the Prekmurje region) are only now slowly following suit.

In the procedure for the establishment of the municipality of Ankaran, opinions on the matter were obtained from the Coastal Italian Self-Governing Community, the Italian Self-Governing National Community Koper, and other statutory bodies. The establishment of the municipality itself, however, was based on the will of voters expressed in a referendum carried out in the area of the new municipality.

Answers regarding further recommendations:

4. Continue to take vigorous measures to improve the housing conditions of the Roma. Pursue efforts to tackle the difficulties faced by Roma pupils in the education system. Firmly condemn and sanction any form of discrimination against Roma in these areas.

Slovenia notes that the Roma settlements constitute a spatial, social and cultural phenomenon: Roma usually live on the margins of settled areas, as a result of their historical settlement at the time of their transition from a nomadic or semi-nomadic life style to permanent settlement, and due to marginalisation by the majority population; therefore, Roma settlements began to sprawl in areas where this was tolerated by the then authorities. In view of these special circumstances behind their origin, Roma settlements differ from other Slovenian settlements in terms of location, spatial structure, buildings, architectural features, and public utilities. A comparative analysis of the structure and topographic features of Roma settlements, in terms of the choice of location and distribution of the first dwellings, indicates the following common characteristics:

- Separate location from other settlements (at a distance of up to 3 km, which still enables access to necessary supply items on foot, while at the same time providing privacy);
- Bordering on woodland (forest was a sort of a safe backguard, a source of raw materials and shade contributing to a pleasant atmosphere);
- The erection of “barriers” to the surroundings (heaps of raw material, refuse, water channels (natural and artificial), belts of shrubbery or forest, marshy and unpopulated area), which indicates the closed character of Roma settlements¹⁶.

¹⁶ For more information, see: Jernej ZUPANČIČ, expert report 'The Concept of Modernisation of Roma Settlements', Ljubljana, November 2011, available on the website of the Government Office for National Minorities at:

http://www.un.gov.si/fileadmin/un.gov.si/pageuploads/KONCEPT_MODERNIZACIJE_ROMSKIH_NASEL_IJ_V_SLOVENIJI.pdf

A specific feature of the majority of Roma settlements is that the land and the buildings are often not owned by Roma, but by the municipality, the state or private citizens. Most Roma settlement buildings are illegal and are not connected to public utilities. Roma settlements account for less than 2% of about 6,000 statistical settlements in Slovenia, while Roma comprise 0.5% of the Slovenian population (the estimated Roma community population is 10,000). At the governmental level, efforts to improve the Roma situation concentrate in particular on positive measures, which must foresee the participation of the state, the local community, and Roma themselves. Striving to provide systemic and long-term solutions, the aim of governmental measures is to promote the regulation and improvement of the living conditions of Roma. This issue was already included in the National Programme of Measures for Roma for the period 2010–2015 as a priority and remains one of key areas in the new programme document for Roma.

The main objective of the previous programme document was to improve the housing conditions of the Roma population, and the ministry responsible for the environment and spatial planning was a coordinator of priority spatial measures, namely:

- Measure 4.1.2.1 Setting up a comprehensive strategic framework as the basis for specific programmes and projects for regulating Roma settlements; the identification of areas of Roma settlements and their rehabilitation as part of drafting the municipal spatial plans (legalisation of Roma settlements); and
- Measure 4.1.2.2 Implementation of solutions, goals and tasks identified by the expert group to deal with spatial issues related to Roma settlements as part of drafting detailed municipal spatial plans for individual Roma settlements.

The competent ministry fully implemented both measures.

For measure 4.1.2.1, the special expert group for addressing spatial issues drafted a report entitled 'Spatial Planning Issues with Roma Settlements in Slovenia', which includes work scenarios for the development of Roma settlements and, as such, provides the basis for specific programmes and projects for the regulation of Roma settlements. The key aspects of the approach are to preserve the locations of existing Roma settlements as a general rule, and to ensure their legality to enable gradual rehabilitation and investments through municipal, regional, national and/or international tenders/projects. This general approach was also endorsed by the Government Commission for the Protection of the Roma Ethnic Community.

The objective of measure 4.1.2.2 was to provide for the comprehensive urban planning of Roma settlements in cooperation between Roma and the local population, and, as a consequence, to improve the housing conditions of the Roma population. Within the expert group for addressing housing issues, the competent ministry prepared the Concept of Modernisation of Roma Settlements, whereby the objective of addressing spatial planning issues of Roma settlements is the comprehensive integration of Roma into Slovenian society through the gradual formal, infrastructural and social integration of Roma settlements into the Slovenian

settlement system, with the concurrent rehabilitation of these areas. This process may be successful only if a partnership is created between municipalities, Roma and state institutions, with each side performing their respective duties. The Government Commission for the Protection of the Roma Ethnic Community approved the elaborated concept for addressing spatial issues of Roma settlements and issued an additional decision to make this concept a guiding principle for the future work of all relevant state authorities, municipalities and other institutions.

One of the foreseen ways of implementing the Concept of Roma settlements modernisation is a call for applications for municipalities to obtain co-financing in the elaboration of background documents for drawing up detailed municipal spatial plans for Roma settlements, which was planned by the Ministry. The success of the call for applications depended on the implementation of measure 4.1.2.1 from the National Programme depending on the timeline for the adoption spatial plans in municipalities with a Roma population. This is why a call for applications would make sense only if the majority of municipalities with a Roma population adopted a municipal spatial plan, which means that, for the most part, measure 4.1.2.1 had been implemented.

In light of the above and given the financial cuts, the responsible ministry decided against publishing a call for applications for municipalities to obtain co-financing in the elaboration of background documents for drawing up detailed municipal spatial plans for Roma settlements. As the regulation of Roma settlements is admittedly a complex task, the responsible ministry organised two seminars, on 8 October 2010 and 1 March 2011, on spatial planning, public utilities, construction, and housing, with a special emphasis on the applicable legislation regulating the status of Roma settlements. As well as municipal administrations from municipalities with a Roma population, Roma councillors were also invited to attend the seminars, as it is essential that members of the Roma community are informed of the possibilities for regulating Roma settlements. After the seminars, the collection of lectures was distributed to all Roma councillors and municipal administrations of municipalities with a Roma population, regardless of whether they took part in the seminars or not.

According to the responsible ministry, ensuring the primary competence of municipalities in spatial planning (integrating Roma settlements in the Slovenian settlement system) does not necessarily improve the housing conditions of Roma, which is why a prerequisite for a long-term arrangement is the adoption of a comprehensive approach, such as by introducing parallel measures in the field of education and employment.

The responsible ministry participates in the interministerial working body, the Government Commission for the Protection of the Roma Ethnic Community. For greater efficiency of measures adopted to improve the situation of the Roma community, it was suggested that the Commission:

- Promote the partnership between municipalities, Roma and national institutions within its remit (defined in its Rules of Procedure), thereby

- contributing to comprehensive and coordinated solutions to deal effectively with Roma issues;
- Ensure that Roma community representatives play an active and responsible role in seeking solutions to Roma issues.

The responsible ministry is also participating in drafting the new national programme of measures for the coming five-year period.

Bearing in mind the European Commission's guidelines and the pressing challenges of including Roma settlements in the Slovenian settlement system, the responsible ministry participates in formulating measures in accordance with the confirmed concept of resolving housing issues of the Roma community with a view to improving housing conditions. The measures will have to be implemented by state institutions and municipalities, each within the scope of their competences. Within its competence in the field of spatial planning, construction and housing, the Ministry will continue to monitor the activities of municipalities in regulating Roma settlements.

According to the Ministry, this is a long-term process whose success greatly depends on the appropriate integration of Roma in the local environment. Considering that Roma display varying degrees of willingness when it comes to improving the housing conditions in their settlements, the Ministry is striving to provide a clearer definition of measures for the new programme period, which will also be carried out by representatives of the Roma community.

The responsible ministry is also actively involved in settling issues regarding municipal spatial plans, and closely cooperates with municipalities, even when dealing with outstanding siting issues.

The measures from the 2010–2015 National Programme of Measures for Roma were implemented in accordance with the available budgetary resources. Funds were secured for co-financing municipal investments in the construction of basic public utilities in Roma settlements. Such investments had already been co-financed by the state before 2010. Despite the expiry of the National Programme, a call for applications was published for 2016 and 2017 in the annual amount of 1 million EUR. Under the applicable law fostering balanced regional development, such co-funding for municipalities which have a Roma councillor or a suitable municipal council working body to monitor the Roma situation will continue in the future.

Various state institutions are engaged in resolving the Roma housing issue.

Based on the situation in the field and in communication with representatives of the Roma community, the ministry responsible for labour, family, social affairs and equal opportunities is closely monitoring the conditions in Roma settlements and the social situation in them, noting the difficult socioeconomic status of Roma, particularly in the Dolenjska region. In order to improve this situation, a project to establish multi-purpose Roma centres foresees the setting up of 8 such centres in the wider

Dolenjska region (of a total of 11). This will substantially enhance the scope, visibility and offer of activities available to Roma with a view to helping them and improving their employment options, personal development and socioeconomic status. The planned project includes reinforced cooperation with the majority population (and their organisations) in the local environment, which will contribute to confidence building and combating stereotypes.

Through the competent authorities, the Government intends to further strengthen the already effective cooperation with Roma and their organisations, as well as with local authority representatives in preparing the core documents for projects which fall under the scope of the state authorities, reflect the needs and wishes of Roma and are in keeping with national plans to improve the general social situation of Roma.

Regarding outstanding issues in Roma education, it must be pointed out that the problem of Romani standardisation continues to hamper the introduction of Romani in school.

With a view to improving the situation, the ministry responsible for education held a two-day seminar entitled 'Romani as a European Minority Language' on 6 and 7 July 2015 in cooperation with the Graz-based European Centre for Modern Languages of the Council of Europe. The seminar was conducted within the QualiRom project.

This is a European Commission-financed project on providing quality education in Romani for Europe, which was implemented in the 2011–2013 period. The project paid particular attention to the widespread use of the Framework Curriculum for Romani and two models of the European Language Portfolio, raising the literacy level in Romani, and training Romani teachers. The aim of the project was to promote the introduction of Romani in the education system, enhancing the presence of Romani speakers in the education system to help raise the educational level of Roma children, the confidence of Romani speakers, the emancipation of Roma community members, and promote equal opportunities. A toolkit of teaching aids was prepared to assist in the teaching and learning of Romani, which is available in six Romani dialects, ranging from A1 to B2 levels. The teaching aids created within the QualiRom project are the most valuable teaching resource for Romani, since they are based on European standards. More information is available at <http://qualirom.uni-graz.at>.

Goals of the training programme:

- acquire a basic knowledge of Romani as a European minority language (history and structure of language, sociolinguistics, dialectology);
- acquire a basic knowledge of Romani dialects in Slovenia;
- acquire a basic knowledge of possible ways to introduce Romani in the education system as a minority language;
- present the goals and results of the QualiRom project;
- raise awareness of the status and importance of Romani.

The invitation to the seminar was sent to Romani teaching assistants and their mentors at schools, tutors, individual Roma interested in preserving and spreading Romani, pre-school and school teachers which deal with Roma inclusion issues on a daily basis, and others (state bodies and public education institutions). Thanks to the seminar, awareness was raised of the importance of Romani and the added value of the command of the language; the participants were presented different options of using Romani within the education system, and experience was shared, together with examples of best practice. According to the competent ministry, the seminar was particularly useful for education professionals who come into contact with Roma children and their parents on a daily basis. The seminar included a presentation of teaching aids created within the QualiRom project to facilitate Romani teaching and learning. The introduction of Romani in the learning process is hampered by a notable lack of well-trained teachers and quality teaching aids. For this reason, the seminar was a major step towards recognising the advantages of Romani in the education process.

To improve the conditions for the equal inclusion of Roma children in the education system, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, with the support of the European Social Fund, financed different projects that focused on assisting and encouraging Roma children in schools and pre-schools, as well as in Roma settlements and local environments with a Roma population:

- 2010–2013: project 'Increase in social and cultural capital in areas with a Roma population'. The activities focus on providing assistance to Roma pupils in Roma educational incubators established in Roma settlements; encouraging Roma children to enter pre-school and assisting them in the transition from pre-school to school; training pre-school and school teachers for work with Roma children, etc. More information about the project is available at <http://www.khetanes.si/>.
- September 2011–2014: project 'Successful inclusion of Roma in education II'. Within the scope of the project, Roma teaching assistants were employed in 29 primary schools and 2 pre-school institutions in South-East and North-East Slovenia. More information about the project is available at <http://www.projekt-uvrvi2.si/>.
- 2014–2015: project 'Together towards knowledge – meeting the objectives of the Strategy for education of Roma in the Republic of Slovenia'. Within the project, Roma teaching assistants were employed in 31 schools and pre-school institutions to help Roma children overcome emotional and linguistic barriers, acting also as a link between parents and school. The programme of Roma educational incubators was implemented in 15 locations, offering learning assistance for Roma children and various leisure activities for pre-school and school children. A preparatory pre-school institution was established in the settlement of Kerinov Grm, while in other areas around Slovenia, leisure activities were organised for Roma children in the form of

open-air learning and field trips. More information about the project is available at <http://skupajdoznanja.si/>.

- 2016–2021: project 'Together for knowledge – activities related to support mechanisms for knowledge acquisition for Roma'. The aim of the project is to further develop support mechanisms for knowledge acquisition by Roma community members in pre-school education, for including Roma parents in educational activities, for connecting education with other fields (social affairs, employment, health and culture), and as a result, transformation of educational incubators into multi-purpose centres promoting knowledge as an important value. The project includes: the employment of 25 Roma assistants in 31 primary schools and pre-school institutions attended by Roma children in different Slovenian regions; multi-purpose centres in selected Roma settlements providing learning assistance, creative and sports activities; extracurricular activities for Roma children in selected state-run centres for school and outdoor education.

The ministry responsible for culture also funds cultural projects by Roma associations, including those presenting Roma culture in educational institutions.

In 2016, funding was provided for the following projects by Roma associations which were also carried out in educational institutions:

Roma Academic Club	Roma Culture Festival <i>Romano Čhon</i> 2016 (Roma month)	EUR 3,100.00
Roma Union of Slovenia	Gathering of pre-school and school children	EUR 1,300.00
Roma Union of Dolenjska Region	Main event marking International Roma Day	EUR 1,700.00

5. Identify effective ways of improving the implementation of the existing legislative framework for the protection of the culture and languages of national minorities, in close consultation with minority representatives. Pay particular attention to securing sustainability of the activities aiming at preserving and promoting minority culture.

One of the goals of the National Programme for Culture 2014–2017 is 'A higher level of protection of cultural rights within the framework of human rights protection', which foresees as one of the measures the "Implementation of development oriented cultural programmes and projects for constitutionally recognised minority communities". This measure covers the implementation of a special programme, an integration programme, and a programme for capacity building. The system of identifying the cultural needs of the Italian and Hungarian national communities and the Roma community is based on the views expressed within those communities, taking into account the special circumstances in which members of these communities live and are engaged in cultural activities. The ultimate goal of all the measures and approaches is to allow for effective voluntary integration, while preserving cultural diversity.

Within the goal 'A higher level of minority integration in all areas and regions', the following measures are envisaged:

- support for the cultural diversity and heritage of the German-speaking ethnic group, particularly the Gottschee community and small indigenous communities,
- support for the expressed cultural needs of immigrants and members of national communities under the Declaration of the Republic of Slovenia on the Status of National Communities of Members of Nations of the Former SFRY in the Republic of Slovenia (Official Gazette No 7/2011),
- improving the employability of members of vulnerable social groups in the field of culture, and supporting their social inclusion.

Among the organisational measures, the competent ministry also holds different consultations with national minority representatives. Each year, the ministry organises coordination meetings with representatives of the Italian and Hungarian national communities and the Roma community. Representatives of other minority ethnic groups also have an opportunity to express their views in various activities (workshops, counselling, open-day event of the director of the Service for Cultural Diversity and Human Rights).

The Resolution on the National Programme for Language Policy 2014–2018 provides expert guidelines on language policy decisions and measures. The resolution was adopted by the National Assembly on 15 July 2013. The essential value of the document lies in its comprehensive approach to language policy: it places the Slovene language at the centre of attention as the mother tongue of the majority of Slovenian citizens, while taking into consideration other, minority, languages in Slovenia. Besides measures related to the Slovene language, the resolution envisages measures for Italian, Hungarian, Romani and the languages of other communities and immigrants. Regarding linguistic rights, special emphasis is given to the Declaration of the Republic of Slovenia on the Status of National Communities of Members of Nations of the Former SFRY in the Republic of Slovenia, adopted by the National Assembly on 1 February 2011. When drafting the document, careful attention was given to the integration of all target groups, including minority members. Before its adoption, the Programme was discussed by the National Assembly Commission for National Communities. The 2014–2018 Resolution on the National Programme for Language Policy was finalised and adopted with no votes against.

An inter-ministerial working group for monitoring the implementation of the language policy of the Republic of Slovenia was established by a Government decision; on an annual basis, the working group drafts a report which is then adopted as per the established procedure of cooperation with the National Assembly Commission for National Communities. Based on the Resolution, two implementation documents were prepared, namely: The Action Plan for Language Education and The Action plan on Language Reference Tools, adopted by the Government on 13 November 2015.

Both documents are also subject to reports by the inter-ministerial working group for monitoring the implementation of language policy. Some of the programme measures envisaged by the Resolution regarding minority languages include: language education of civil servants and officials for communicating in languages of autochthonous national communities and in the languages of other linguistic communities which fall under the Slovenian language policy; promotion of languages of autochthonous national communities, the Roma community and other minority ethnic groups and immigrants in education, information and media activities, culture and scientific research; ensuring adequate space in public media programmes in the languages of speakers who do not have Slovene as the first language and who wish to have such presence in the media; systemic enhancement of the conduct of business and other activities in two languages; preparation of regulations needed to implement minority languages policy; putting up visible signs of multilingualism in municipalities with Italian and Hungarian national communities; implementation of consumer protection in the Italian and Hungarian languages in these areas; introduction and implementation of appropriate supervision of the implementation of legislative provisions, of the programme for language policy, and of financing.

Slovenia stresses that the budgetary resources allocated for cultural activities of minority communities have not decreased since 2012; moreover, in 2015, these resources increased by 1.7% as compared to the previous year. This ensures adequate financing of activities for the preservation and promotion of minority cultures.

Based on direct calls from the competent ministry, the Italian and Hungarian national communities propose cultural programmes for each year, which are finalised and endorsed by the central organisation of the national community.

As a further step in the decision making regarding co-financing of projects presented in calls for applications, the Minister nominates a commission of experts from individual fields or aspects of culture, who work autonomously. As an advisory body to the Minister, the commission evaluates the projects in terms of the goals and criteria defined in the call for applications. The Ministry informs applicants on the expert commission's opinion on the projects presented. The applicants can reply to the findings in the commission's preliminary opinion, which is taken into consideration before drafting the final proposal that is sent to the Minister. The Ministry invites the Roma Community Council to prepare an opinion on the expert commission's proposals on all applications. In accordance with the legal possibilities, the competent ministry strives to involve representatives of different minority ethnic groups in the call for applications for selecting cultural programmes and projects (see Annex 2).

The legal basis envisages support for activities to preserve and promote different minority cultures, and each year, procedures for co-funding cultural projects and programmes are carried out (Exercising of the Public Interest in Culture Act (Official Gazette No 77/07 – official consolidated text, 56/08, 4/10, 20/11 and 111/13),

Slovenia-Austria Agreement, Agreement on Guaranteeing Special Rights to the Slovene Minority Living in the Republic of Hungary and the Hungarian National Community in the Republic of Slovenia, Roma Community Act).

Slovenia particularly emphasises that in previous years, cuts in funding for amateur cultural activities of Slovenian artists were proportionate to general budgetary cuts. A special public fund (Public Fund for Cultural Activities of the Republic of Slovenia) advocates increasing resources for the amateur culture of the majority population, minority ethnic groups and immigrants.

Regarding financial resources for the permanent operation of Italian and Hungarian national community institutions, Slovenia notes that, despite the dire economic situation and austerity measures, the funds for their operation have not decreased. The authority responsible for national minorities responds to well-grounded needs expressed in permanent consultations with representatives of both national communities and during visits in the field.

6. Promote an inclusive interpretation of the new Act Regulating the Legal Status of Citizens of Former Yugoslavia living in the Republic of Slovenia with a view to giving retroactive access to permanent residence to as many as possible of those who were “erased” in 1992 and are consequently living abroad.

In 2010, in order to regulate the status of persons deleted from the register of the permanent population, Slovenia introduced amendments to the Act Regulating the Legal Status of Citizens of Former Yugoslavia Living in the Republic of Slovenia (Official Gazette No. 50/10), which entered into force on 24 July 2010. The National Assembly passed these amendments with a view to finally regulating the legal status of these persons. According to the Act, persons deleted from the register of permanent population who do not reside in Slovenia on reasonable grounds are also entitled to a permanent residence permit. As defined under the Amending Act, reasonable grounds for absence include departure from Slovenia due to the consequences of deletion from the register or due to the failure to acquire a residence permit, failure to return to Slovenia because of war in other successor states to the SFRY, expulsion from Slovenia, and refused entry.

In 2013, Slovenia passed another special legislative act concerning people erased from the register of permanent residents, namely the Act Regulating the Compensation for Damage Sustained as a Result of Erasure from the Register of Permanent Population (Official Gazette No. 99/13), which entered into force on 18 December 2013 and took effect on 18 June 2014. As specified in the introductory provisions, the Act intends to remedy violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms for persons erased from the register. The Act also executes the judgement of the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights of 26 June 2012 in *Kurić and others v. Slovenia*. It regulates the right to pecuniary compensation and other forms of just satisfaction as redress for damage sustained as a result of erasure.

At its 1257th session, on 25 May 2016, the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers responsible for monitoring the execution of ECHR judgements adopted its final Resolution on *Kurić and others v. Slovenia*. Based on the action plan for the execution of judgement, the Committee of Ministers decided that Slovenia had complied with the requests specified in the ECHR Grand Chamber judgement of 26 June 2012 and 12 March 2014 by adopting both individual measures related to applicants and general measures. By passing the Act Regulating the Compensation for Damage Sustained as a Result of Erasure from the Register of Permanent Residents, Slovenia complied with the requests for general measures specified in the pilot judgement. Thus, the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers closed the procedure in the case of *Kurić and others v. Slovenia*.

In other areas, not regulated by the said Act, a person deleted from the register who had been issued a permanent residence permit may enjoy the same rights as foreign nationals who have been issued a permanent residence permit or have registered permanent residence in Slovenia.

From the entry into force of the said Act until 31 October 2016, 7,612 claims for financial compensation had been filed in an administrative procedure at Slovenian administrative units. By 31 October 2016, administrative units finalised 7,431 claims and the total amount of financial compensation imposed in the administrative procedure (final decisions) was EUR 24,692,250. The lowest compensation amounted to EUR 50, and the highest to EUR 13,050. Payments of compensation to beneficiaries are underway.

7. Ensure that no discrimination arises in practice for persons belonging to non-recognised groups, such as persons belonging to the "new national communities and the German-speaking community and that adequate resources are allocated for the preservation of the languages and culture of these persons.

Via the relevant ministry, Slovenia continues its support for mother tongue and culture classes for children of immigrants, including those of nations of the former Yugoslav republics: Croatian, Serbian, Bosnian, Macedonian, and Albanian. Hungarian classes were introduced in the 2015/16 school year.

The line ministry (Ministry of Education, Science and Sport), based on the decision of the Minister, calls on schools to submit applications for co-financing supplementary mother tongue and culture classes for children of immigrants. The Ministry provides a lump sum payment for each student attending (45 euros) for the use of premises for (a minimum of) 60 lessons (heating, electricity, cleaning, etc.), the purchase of teaching aids and materials, and programme material costs (consumables, telephone and written communication costs, photocopying, etc.) The state whose language is being taught, parents, or other individuals cover the costs of teachers, including fees and transport costs.

In the 2015/16 school year, 465 children attended such classes, with co-financing amounting to EUR 14,850 (no application was received for co-financing for 90 students of Croatian).

Co-financing is a practical result of the Resolution on the National Programme for Language Policy 2014–2018, which devotes special attention to the promotion of languages of ethnic minorities outside the areas of their settlement. In 2015/16, the Ministry also co-financed a trilingual edition of a publication entitled 'Twenty Years of Remedial Class in Macedonian in Slovenia'. The publication, in Slovenian, Macedonian and English, is available at: <http://www.mkd-kim.si/monografija/sola/>.

In addition to co-financing supplementary mother tongue and culture classes in Slovenian elementary schools, the Ministry, in cooperation with the National Education Institute, organises annual courses for teachers of supplementary classes of mother tongues and cultures, providing them with additional professional and teaching materials, funds permitting. With the new programming period, additional opportunities will open up for expanding activities within educational institutions aimed at fostering and preserving multilingualism among non-native speakers of Slovene or people with another cultural and linguistic identity.

Based on the Declaration of the Republic of Slovenia on the situation of the communities of members of nations of the former SFRY in the Republic of Slovenia, on 17 October 2013, the Government Council for Issues concerning the Communities of Members of Nations of the Former SFRY in the Republic of Slovenia was re-established as a consultative body of the Government concerned with the situation of these communities. All representatives of these communities, ministries and government bodies are equal members of the Council, which addresses issues, requirements and proposals concerning the preservation, promotion and development of ethnic and national identities of members of all these communities. Notably, its operation accelerates and facilitates dialogue with the overall purpose of preserving, developing and promoting the identities of members of nations of the former SFRY.

It must be pointed out that extensive efforts have been made for many years regarding the exercise of cultural rights of minority ethnic groups, including those mentioned in the Declaration. The line ministry has developed three types of programme also targeting these communities: a special programme (focusing on cultural specifics), an integration programme (inclusion in cultural life) and a programme financed by the European Social Fund (capacity building of these minority ethnic groups).

The objective 'A higher level of minority integration in all areas and regions' of the National Programme for Culture 2014–2017, drafted by the line ministry, also includes "support for the expressed cultural needs of members of the national communities mentioned in the Declaration and immigrants".

The identification of, and respect for, the needs of minority ethnic groups is one of the five fundamental principles underpinning the model implemented by the competent Department for Cultural Diversity and Human Rights of the Ministry of Culture. Consultations with minority representatives are held on a regular basis; moreover, owing to the diversity within their communities, the possibility of direct contact with artists was introduced (Wednesday is open day of the Head of the Department; this information is published on the Ministry's website).

Slovenia implements the initiatives and requests of members of the German-speaking ethnic group, pursuant to articles 61 and 62 of the Constitution, which stipulate that everyone has the right to freely express affiliation with their nation or national community, to foster and give expression to their culture, and to use their own language and script.

Article 14 of the Constitution stipulates that everyone shall be guaranteed equal human rights and fundamental freedoms, irrespective of national origin, race, sex, language, religion, political or other conviction, material standing, birth, education, social status, disability or any other personal circumstance. Everyone is equal before the law.

Based on the commitments of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Government of the Republic of Austria on Cooperation in the Fields of Culture, Education and Science, signed in Ljubljana on 30 April 2001, a work programme on cooperation in culture, education and science between the two governments was drafted, which serves as the legal basis for implementing a special Ministry programme. On 17 December 2013, the third work programme was signed for the period 2014–2016.

Slovenia strives to protect the cultural rights of the German-speaking ethnic group through financial (funding of projects), organisational (expert assistance, counselling, workshops, mediation) and normative measures (special provisions in the basic act on culture; participation in the drafting of regulations). Since 1991, the Ministry has published a public call for applications for the selection of cultural projects of minority ethnic groups, which is also open to organisations and individuals from the German-speaking ethnic group (first applications in 1998). Since 2008, a separate call for applications for the German-speaking ethnic group has been published. The aim of the annual call for applications is high-quality cultural integration of members of the German-speaking ethnic group in Slovenia, especially the Gottschee community, whose culture is under threat of extinction and therefore requires particular attention, as the group is relatively small and needs specific measures to preserve its cultural heritage. The Ministry of Culture took this into account in the Resolution on the National Programme for Culture 2014–2017; the objective 'A higher level of minority integration in all areas and regions' also includes "support for cultural diversity and the heritage of members of the German-speaking ethnic group in the territory of the Republic of Slovenia, especially the Gottschee community and small indigenous communities."

Since 2010, calls for applications from a dedicated public fund for the selection of cultural projects of minority ethnic groups and immigrants have been published, which are intended exclusively for "new national communities." A part of the Programme is dedicated to these ethnic groups and immigrants, including the organisation of regional folklore group gatherings, a state gathering of poets and writers of other nations and nationalities entitled Neighbour of Your Shore, and the publishing of the *Paralele* magazine, which is devoted to the cultures of other nations living in Slovenia.

8. Make further efforts to combat all forms of intolerance and hate speech targeting persons belonging to minorities and other groups, including in the political life and the media. Encourage public media to provide the general public with further, unbiased information on the history, culture and languages of the national minorities.

According to the Criminal Code, public incitement to hatred and intolerance is an offence. It is also defined in Article 10 of the Protection against Discrimination Act (Official Gazette No. 33/16):

Article 10

(Inciting discrimination)

(1) Inciting discrimination is any incitement of other persons to carry out actions the result of which is, was or could be discrimination as per the provisions of this Act. Prohibited severe conduct particularly includes delivering or disseminating racist, religious, national and sexually discriminatory appeals, inducing, abetting or inciting hatred and discrimination, and broader public haranguing which promotes discrimination.

(2) The public justification for neglecting or despising persons or groups of people due to personal circumstances under Article 1 of this Act is also prohibited as discrimination, including justifying ideas of the supremacy or superiority of a person or a group of people with certain characteristics which arise from the aforementioned personal circumstances and which are supposedly superior to those who are not part of such group.

Such heinous acts are also prohibited by legislation on the media (the Media Act and the Audiovisual Media Services Act), which clearly prohibit the dissemination of media programming and audiovisual media services that encourage national, racial, religious, sexual or any other inequality, or violence and war, or incite national, racial, religious, sexual or any other hatred and intolerance.

When creating programme content, editors, journalists and other authors are obliged to act in compliance with ethical and professional rules and standards, and the reporters' code of conduct. According to the Code of Ethics of Slovenian Journalists, incitement to violence, the spreading of hatred or intolerance and other forms of hate speech are deemed unacceptable, and journalists must not tolerate

them, or, if this is impossible, must immediately respond to them and condemn them. The Code of Ethics of Slovenian Journalists is not a (binding) legal instrument; a violation may result in a verdict by the Journalists' Court of Honour, which has no legal force, but is of a more or less moral nature, and may, in certain cases, cause the expulsion of a journalist from the professional organisation.

Pursuant to the Media Act (Official Gazette Nos. 110/06 – official consolidated text, 36/08, 77/10, 90/10, 87/11, 47/12, 47/15, 22/16, and 39/16), managing editors are to be held accountable for any information published and, under the journalist code of ethics, also for comments or other audiovisual content provided by readers, listeners, or viewers. They are also responsible for laying down the rules for the selection and publication of comments. Any comment which does not abide by the published rules must be promptly removed. This has become established practice; moreover, users themselves may report cases of hate speech to the *Spletno oko* (Web Eye) hotline, and such inappropriate or illegal content is then removed by the administrator.

The *Spletno oko* hotline (spletno-oko.si) has had excellent results in preventing and limiting hate speech and other illegal web and web media content. It allows anonymous reports of hate speech and other illegal content spread via the Internet, and has a significant dissuasive effect. *Spletno-oko.si* operates under the Safer Internet Plus programme and the INHOPE organisation, and the Office of the State Prosecutor General, the Police and representatives of mass media and other organisations actively involved in the protection of children's rights cooperate in the project as members of the advisory body.

Slovenia's active measures to discourage hate speech include annual calls for applications for co-financing media content. The public call for applications lists "culture of public dialogue" as one of its objectives and purposes, and in the part dedicated to so-called programmes of special importance which are in Slovenia's public and cultural interest (local, regional, student and non-profit radio and television programmes) includes the criterion of "respect for the principles of cultural diversity, equal opportunities, and tolerance."

A prominent role in warning about, and raising awareness of the prohibition of, hate speech is played by the public radio and television, which is obliged by the Radio and Television Corporation of Slovenia Act (Official Gazette Nos. 96/05, 109/05, 105/06, 26/09, and 9/14) to support the spread of knowledge of other cultures that are represented in the Republic of Slovenia and their representatives, foster the culture of public dialogue and provide a broad arena for public debate on social issues. In their work, its journalists must respect the principles of constitutionality and legality, including the prohibition of inciting cultural, religious, sexual, racial, national, or other intolerance.

9. Continue support of the media broadcasting in Romani and on Roma issues, including through private media outlets at the local level; consider additional training of Roma to become journalists.

Slovenia promotes radio and media presence in Romani. Radio Slovenia broadcasts a regular weekly show *Amare droma* (Our Paths), which deals with Roma-related issues. The show is created and presented by members of the Roma community.

Since 2008, TV Slovenia has broadcast a regular fortnightly show *So vakeres?* (What Are You Saying?). Its main objective is to promote mutual understanding of Roma in Slovenia, as there are numerous differences, also linguistic, between various Roma communities. Another objective of the show is to popularise Romani as used by Roma around the world in order to promote the participation of Slovenian Roma in various integration processes. The show is designed to attract as many Roma intellectuals as possible and to bridge internal divisions within the community. The show thus readily broadcasts any contributions related to outstanding Roma issues (about the Roma Union of Slovenia, Roma councillors, Roma Academic Club, a new organisation uniting young Roma intellectuals, etc.). Each edition of the show features two reports, a calendar of events, news and a piece entitled *Sar roman* (presentation of three Romani dialects spoken by Slovenian Roma). Another important objective of the show is to overcome the negative stereotypes about Roma among the majority population, and this is why it puts a major emphasis on the rich Roma cultural tradition in music and other spheres. The show is produced in the TV SLO studio in Murska Sobota by Roma from all over Slovenia: Prekmurje, Maribor, Ljubljana, Novo Mesto or elsewhere.

Furthermore, during the past years, RTV SLO translated into Romani 15 episodes of the children's show *Bisergora* (dubbing and subtitles in Romani). RTV Slovenia is planning to make the show available on DVD.

In 2006, RTV Slovenia organised a training course in journalism for members of the Roma community participating in the production and realisation of the radio show *Amare droma*. Around ten Roma participate in the production of the TV show *So vakeres?*. The RTV Slovenia Education Centre will continue to invite Roma to attend further training.

Five Roma media are operational in Slovenia: Radio Romic, the newspapers *Romano them*, *Romano Lil* and *Rroma*, and the internet radio Bossaroma. These outlets can respond to the annual public call for applications for co-financing media programmes, as one of its objectives is "exercising the right of the Roma community residing in Slovenia to disseminate public information and to be informed." The part of the public call for applications dedicated to so-called programmes of special importance, which are in Slovenia's public and cultural interest (local, regional, student and non-profit radio and television programmes), includes the criterion of "exercising the right to public information, informing local and minority communities, disseminating media in minority languages".

Through the call for applications, co-financing is ensured for Radio Študent and for their programme *Romano horo* (Roma Song) dedicated to Roma music and other topics of interest to the Roma community. Co-financing is also provided for Radio Murski Val, which features a special informative programme for Roma and contributes to better cooperation between Roma and the majority population, and for KANAL 10, which, in cooperation with the Roma Union of Slovenia, provides regular updates on the situation of the Roma community in Pomurje. In the Dolenjska region, the Ministry co-finances Radio UNIVOX, which features a special show 'Roma Community' broadcasting information for Roma and contributing to better cooperation between Roma and the majority population, and TV Novo Mesto, which often airs Roma-related programmes.

On the basis of the annual public calls for applications for co-financing media programmes, the Ministry allocated funds for the following media content dealing with Roma issues:

2013:

- Iz(brano); Podjetje za informiranje Murska Sobota (information company),
- Uredništvo v gosteh 2013 (Visiting editorial board 2013); Dolenjski List Novo Mesto,
- Krajevni mozaik (Local mosaic); Zdenka Ivačič, s.p.,
- MOZAIK (programme on Slovenians living abroad, ethnic groups and minorities); Oblak Turnišče Research and Development Institute,
- Aktualno (In Focus) – informative programme on Murski Val; Murski Val Radio,
- Pomurski dnevnik (News from Pomurje); TV IDEA – Kanal 10,
- Novice (News); Televizija Novo Mesto,
- Zahodnodolenjski odmevi (Topical news from West Dolenjska); UNIVOX,
- GNES – informative programme; HI-FI VIDEOSTUDIO.

2014:

- Iz(brano); Podjetje za informiranje Murska Sobota (information company),
- Lepo povemo, še lepše pa zapojemo (We can say it well and sing it even better); Sraka International, d. o. o., Novo Mesto,
- Pomurski dnevnik (News from Pomurje); TV IDEA – Kanal 10,
- Aktualno (In Focus) – informative programme on Murski Val; Murski Val Radio,
- Novice (News); Televizija Novo Mesto,
- Zahodnodolenjski odmevi (Topical news from West Dolenjska); UNIVOX,
- Dogodki (Events); HI-FI Videostudio Murska Sobota.

2015:

- Iz(brano); Podjetje za informiranje Murska Sobota (information company),
- Aktualno (In Focus) – informative programme on Murski Val; Murski Val Radio, d. o. o
- Pomurski dnevnik (News from Pomurje); TV IDEA – Kanal 10,
- Novice (News); Televizija Novo Mesto,
- Zahodnodolenjski odmevi (Topical news from West Dolenjska); UNIVOX,

– Dogodki (Events); HI-FI Videostudio Murska Sobota.

2016:

- Aktualno (In focus) – informative programme on Murski Val; Murski Val Radio, d. o. o
- Pomurski dnevnik (News from Pomurje); TV IDEA – Kanal 10,
- Novice (News); Televizija Novo Mesto,
- Zahodnodolenjski odmevi (Topical news from West Dolenjska); UNIVOX,
- Prvi pri vas doma (Your first choice); NAŠ ČAS, d.o.o.
- Pomurske novice (News from Pomurje); Zavod Roka, Černelavci (project management institute).

In 2010–2016, in the framework of the public call for applications for the Roma community, the Ministry of Culture also financially supported projects to preserve the Romani language:

- Radio Romic, documentary and archival activities,
- newspapers *Romano them*, *Romano Lil*, *Rroma*, *Romano Haberi*, *Romano Glauso* and *Mri Nevi Mini Multi*,
- radio programme *Romano Anglunipe* (Future of Roma).

Training of Roma to become journalists

Through annual calls for co-financing media programmes, Slovenia provides funding for, inter alia, more jobs for journalists in the Roma media, as job creation is one of the criteria in the call for applications.

As early as 2006, RTV Slovenia organised a training course in journalism for members of the Roma community in Slovenia. 210 hours of education, practical exercises and training have been provided, with RTV Slovenia focusing its efforts on working with 15 candidates from various parts of the country with Roma and Sinti communities. These 15 people now form the backbone of the teams producing the *Amare droma* radio show and the *So vakeres* TV show. The RTV Slovenia Education Centre will continue to invite Roma to attend further training.

10. Provide teachers working in bilingual (Hungarian-Slovene) and Italian language institutions with improved training. Redouble efforts to develop the teaching of Romani and in Romani at school.

In reply, Slovenia explains that education for members of the Italian and Hungarian national communities is an integral part of the general education system in the Republic of Slovenia.

The two models of education for members of the Italian and Hungarian national communities strengthen the national identity of children in pre-school institutions, pupils and students, and to enable children and young people to develop their linguistic competences and active participation in intercultural dialogue. On the basis of their annual work plans, the organisational units of the National Education

Institute in Koper and Murska Sobota, respectively, provide counselling, developmental and professional support, as well as various forms of training for members of national communities. Taking into account the specifics and sensitive nature of certain issues they deal with, as well as the language competences of counsellors employed, the two organisational units offer a possibility of professional cooperation between schools and institutions on both sides of the border: between Slovenia and Italy, and between Slovenia and Hungary. Furthermore, in accordance with international agreements concluded, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, they provide professional assistance to Slovenian schools in Italy and Hungary.

It should also be stressed that human rights and diversity education is included in the Slovenian education system and in professional training programmes.

Many important changes have recently been made to the national curriculum:

Individual parts of education programmes (revised curricula, extracurricular activities, teacher training, etc.) focus more intensively on human rights and diversity education and on respect for diversity and national minorities.

Education for members of national communities is an integral part of the system of education in the Republic of Slovenia. Its special objectives promote the harmonious coexistence of people living in ethnically mixed areas, and enable members of national communities to preserve their linguistic and cultural identities. In order to achieve these objectives and enforce the rights of the national communities' members, the Act stipulates special conditions for planning, organising and implementing education.

The two models of education established for ethnically mixed areas in Prekmurje and Slovenian Istria, respectively, are designed as the basis for ensuring the equal position of the Hungarian and Italian national communities, their languages and cultures. However, for historical reasons, the two models differ in terms of the linguistic organisation of classes. Classes in schools in Slovenian Istria are held in only one language – in Slovene at schools with Slovene as the language of instruction, and in Italian at schools with Italian as the language of instruction – while all children also learn the other language as a compulsory subject. The situation is different in the ethnically mixed parts of Prekmurje, where schools are bilingual, meaning that classes are held in two languages, Slovene and Hungarian. A characteristic of this model is that bilingual classes are attended by children of both Slovenian and Hungarian nationalities, i.e. native speakers of two different languages.

Numerous analyses show that both models are appropriate and ensure a high level of minority protection and development in ethnically mixed areas.

We are aware that special attention must be devoted to the education of national communities, as education is the keystone of any minority's growth and development. The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport believes that the

standards established for minority education should differ from those set for majority education, but must nevertheless take into account some fundamental international standards. It needs to be stressed that Slovenia has set special, very favourable standards for minority education (including on financing, which differ significantly from those for majority schools: Slovenia finances minority education according to the number of class units, not according to the number of students. Furthermore, minority schools receive additional funds due to their specific features (according to the Special Rights Act); for example, schools on the coast with Italian as the language of instruction receive additional funds in order to be able to exercise bilingualism also in school management.

Through the responsible ministry, Slovenia devotes special attention to the education of autochthonous ethnic minorities in Slovenia and earmarks funds for additional teacher training focused on the specific features of minority education, with a special emphasis on command of the mother tongue and for testing new, more effective models of minority education. To this end, the competent ministry, in addition to funds provided from the state budget, has allocated extra project funds, mostly from the European Social Fund.

The following projects were funded:

- a) Improved minority language competence of teaching professionals in Italian schools in Slovenia and in Slovenian and bilingual schools in Italy

Duration of the project: 1 September 2013 to 31 August 2015

Project holder: Coastal Italian Self-Governing National Community

The aim of the project was to establish professional and subject-related partnerships and cooperation between the participating Italian schools in Slovenia and Slovenian schools in Italy and universities in Italy and Slovenia, which provided teachers with numerous new insights and tools, also regarding the use of teaching aids, for their professional and personal development. These assisted teachers and pupils in classwork and in developing new forms of teaching. The project focused primarily on teacher training, the development of language and teaching skills (competence) and new strategies for teaching in a bilingual environment using ICT, making them more appealing to students.

- b) Improved minority language competence of teaching professionals in bilingual schools and pre-school institutions in the Prekmurje and Raba regions

Duration of the project: 1 September 2013 to 31 August 2015

Project holder: Hungarian Self-Governing National Community

The purpose of the project was to give teachers and managers of bilingual schools and pre-school institutions in the Prekmurje and Raba regions opportunities to learn

the minority language and to modernise the education system in bilingual schools and pre-school institutions. The project resulted in better interconnectivity between bilingual schools and pre-school institutions in the Prekmurje and Raba regions, overcoming stereotypes among the majority and minority populations and raising awareness of the importance of the Hungarian and Slovene languages and cultures.

The project involved all bilingual schools and pre-school institutions in both regions.

The basic objective of the project was to raise the minority language competence of teaching professionals in bilingual schools and pre-school institutions in the Prekmurje and Raba regions, which in turn contributed to improving the skills of children attending bilingual schools. The project's indirect aim was to enhance the quality and effectiveness of the respective education systems, especially in the teaching of Hungarian and Slovene as minority languages in the Prekmurje and Raba regions.

c) E-competences of teachers in bilingual schools

Duration of the project: 1 October 2011 to 31 August 2013

Project holder: Hungarian Self-Governing National Community
<http://www.e-kompetencia.si/>

The aim of the project was to train teachers in bilingual schools and pre-school institutions in the Prekmurje region. The project was led by the Institute for the Culture of the Hungarian National Community, which coordinated the activities of 12 partners in the consortium (Lendava pre-school, Bilingual Elementary School Lendava I, Bilingual Elementary School Lendava II, Bilingual Elementary School Genterovci, Bilingual Elementary School Dobrovnik, Bilingual Elementary School Prosenjakovci, Bilingual Secondary School Lendava, University of Maribor (Faculty of Arts), Institute for Ethnic Studies, Anton Martin Slomšek Institute, National Education Institute and the Hungarian Self-Governing National Community).

The basic objective of the project was to enhance the e-competences of teachers in the Hungarian language in bilingual (Slovene-Hungarian) schools in the Prekmurje region, which in turn contributed to improving the skills of children attending bilingual schools in the ethnically-mixed areas of north-eastern Slovenia.

A new ESF-funded project is in the final phase of preparation, namely 'Raising the quality of minority education for the Italian and Hungarian national communities in Slovenia and for the Slovenian national minorities in Hungary and Italy.' The project will follow up on the successful project 'Improved minority language competence of teaching professionals' implemented by the Pomurje Hungarian Self-Governing National Community and Coastal Italian Self-Governing Community. The main objective of the project is to improve the quality and effectiveness of the minority education systems, primarily of Italian language teaching on the Coast, and of

Hungarian language teaching in Prekmurje. Estimated duration of the project: 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2020. The total value of the project is EUR 720,000.

Another major project related to the Hungarian minority is underway, namely a targeted research project entitled 'A concept for a Hungarian-Slovene dictionary: from a language resource to the user'. Fund provider: Slovenian Research Agency, leading project partner: Faculty of Arts, Ljubljana University; participating institutions: Institute for Ethnic Studies, Faculty of Arts, Maribor University. The project's main goal is to design a concept for a Hungarian-Slovene and Slovene-Hungarian dictionary intended for teachers and students in bilingual schools located in the area populated by the Hungarian national community. Appropriate linguistic resources is essential for improving the effectiveness of bilingual education in areas where teachers must be able to communicate in both Slovene and Hungarian at a level which makes it possible to give classes in both. Therefore, a bilingual dictionary is a first step towards developing and improving the competences of teachers, which in turn leads to improving the skills of students and eventually to their greater competitiveness in the labour market and higher professional efficiency.

One of the major problems in implementing bilingual education and instruction in Italian is the fact that the majority of teachers complete their undergraduate studies in Slovenia, so they often lack the language skills needed for bilingual instruction. During their studies, they acquire skills to be used in their future profession in Slovene, and are not necessarily fluent enough in the minority language.

The competent ministry provides additional training for teachers at bilingual schools in the framework of projects funded from the European Social Fund.

Furthermore, the Act Guaranteeing Special Rights to Members of the Italian and Hungarian National Communities in the Field of Education (Official Gazette No. 35/01 and 102/07) provides for the possibility of employing foreign nationals if there are not enough domestic teachers. If no candidates who meet all the requirements apply for a vacancy, a pre-school institution or school may employ a visiting foreign teacher for a maximum of two years.

Efforts to introduce Romani into schools are hindered by the fact that Romani is not standardised.

The Roma Community in the Republic of Slovenia Act (2007) stipulates that the state shall promote the preservation and development of the Romani language, as well as the cultural, information and publishing activity of the Roma community. An important condition for the preservation and development of Romani is its inclusion in the education system, but it would first need to be standardised. The standardisation of Romani is among the main priorities defined in the Strategy for the Education of Roma in the Republic of Slovenia (2004, 2011). The existence of at least two major dialects of Romani and diverging views on the requirements and methods of its standardisation within the Roma community and professional and political circles prevent the actual standardisation and introduction of Romani in the

education system. In recent years, a number of Romani dictionaries and grammar books have been produced, but these in themselves do little in terms of preserving the language. With reference to the Resolution on the National Programme for Language Policy 2014–2018, Slovenia underlines the objective envisaged in the chapter on Language Education: to develop awareness of the diversity of communications needs and communications methods (forms of communication). The expected effects of this objective/measure include better and more tolerant communication among different groups of speakers. Another important objective is to raise multilingual and intercultural awareness, which will be attained by designing new teaching aids and curricular contents for multilingual and intercultural communication. The expected effects are: enhancing the level of communication among different groups; raising the tolerance threshold in multilingual and multicultural environments; better communication among different participants in educational processes.

11. Guarantee a more effective and timely participation of national minority representatives in decision making on projects aiming at supporting minority culture and on laws having an impact on persons belonging to national minorities, so as to better cater for their needs.

The authority responsible for national minorities regularly alerts state bodies to Paragraph 2 of Article 15¹⁷ of the Self-Governing National Communities Act (Official Gazette No. 65/94). Furthermore, the authority constantly highlights the need to respect paragraph 2 of Article 12 of the Roma Community in the Republic of Slovenia Act (Official Gazette No. 33/07), which stipulates that national authorities, bearers of public authority and self-governing local community bodies must obtain a prior opinion from the Roma Community Council before they can adopt and issue regulations or other general legal acts related to the status of the Roma community. On the other hand, when drafting regulations related to the situation of the Roma community, the authority responsible for national minorities constantly reminds the Roma Community Council, which is the umbrella organisation of the Roma community, of the possibilities provided by Paragraph 1 of Article 12 of the Roma Community in the Republic of Slovenia Act, which stipulates that the Roma Community Council may present proposals, initiatives and opinions in matters of its competence to the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia, the National Council of the Republic of Slovenia, the Government, other state authorities, bearers of public authority and self-governing local community bodies.

The authority responsible for national minorities has a coordinating role with regard to the Italian and Hungarian national communities; when necessary, it convenes meetings between competent state bodies and representatives of national communities.

¹⁷ "In matters related to the status of members of national communities, state authorities must acquire the prior opinion of the self-governing national communities."

The Republic of Slovenia believes that it has established a sound legal framework for the implementation of transparent and high-quality regulations, which, however, sometimes fail to be properly applied. The basic premises and minimum standards of cooperation with (various) segments of the interested public, including representatives of both national communities, are defined in the Resolution on Legislative Regulation adopted by the National Assembly in 2009. While the provisions of the Resolution are binding, the state notes that they are often ignored when drawing up legislative proposals. In order for the regulations to be understandable, clear and feasible, they need to be presented to the widest possible public in the initial phase of preparation, particularly to the target groups affected by them. The Resolution sets the requirements for public participation in the drafting of all regulations, and not only those for which public participation is mandatory on the basis of relevant legislation. Different decisions may have different effects on individuals, associations and communities, may prejudice our rights and affect our quality of life, which, understandably, might arouse opposition to and rejection of particular legislative amendments. Therefore, public participation in an early phase of drafting regulations can prevent possible future conflicts, and is highly advisable in order for various stakeholders to voice their arguments, positions, views and concerns, as well as to provide additional information, all of which improves the quality of regulations.

The state is aware that the public has a crucial role, both in the early phase of regulation preparation and later, when the legislative proposal has already been submitted to public debate. This is why the Ministry of Public Administration held a conference on consultation processes in 2015 and published a Manual on Planning and Implementation of Consultation Processes.¹⁸

On 12 May 2015, the Secretary General of the Government, on the initiative of the Ministry of Public Administration, issued the Instructions amending the Instruction no. 10 for implementing the Rules of Procedure of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia; item 8 of Annex 1 specifically provides for mandatory presentation of collaboration with associations of municipalities in drafting the regulations, implying that participation of associations of municipalities is explicitly required. The Instructions entered into force on 16 May 2016.

Paragraph 2 of Article 94 of the Local Self-Government Act stipulates that, prior to adopting act proposals or submitting such proposals to the National Assembly for adoption, and prior to adopting other regulations concerning the responsibilities, operations and financing of municipalities, the Government must ensure the proper cooperation of the associations of municipalities. Also in drafting regulations, the Government must ensure the proper cooperation of the associations of municipalities.

¹⁸ The Manual on Planning and Implementation of Consultation Processes is available at: http://www.mju.gov.si/fileadmin/mju.gov.si/pageuploads/SNO/Prirocnik-vkljucevanje_javnosti.pdf

Previously, the Instructions for implementing of the Rules of Procedure of the Government made no explicit provision for involving associations of municipalities in drafting regulations, as these associations were considered by the ministries to be part of the general public. The Ministry of Public Administration's proposal to amend the Instructions was based on the premise that municipalities formed an autonomous branch of power, not merely part of the general public, which is made up of non-governmental organisations, professional or peer associations, other organisations and individuals.

The amended Instructions provide for more consistent implementation of the provisions of the Local Self-Government Act, and take into consideration the draft development strategy of local self-government in the part related to interinstitutional dialogue, and at the same time constitute a reply to the frequent appeals of associations of municipalities for state bodies to implement the provisions of the Local Self-Government Act consistently.

It should also be noted that in the framework of the Operational Programme for Human Resources Development funded from the European Social Fund and the state budget, the competent ministry has issued public calls for applications in order to implement the measures of the priority objective "Promotion of the development of NGOs and of civil and social dialogue", and has co-financed NGO projects that influence public policies, i.e. regulations and strategic documents aimed at strengthening the position of NGOs. In this context, regional NGO hubs, including both regional hubs in areas inhabited by the Italian and Hungarian national communities, carry out the following activities: organised and systematic preparation of proposals and recommendations for amendments to legislation, regulations or strategic documents in order to strengthen the role of NGOs at the national and EU levels; advocacy and promotion of NGO positions in the process of drafting/adopting and implementing public policies at the national and EU levels; development, pilot implementation and promotion of new mechanisms for strengthening civil-society dialogue at the national and EU levels; development and implementation of methodologies and analytical tools for monitoring and evaluating the involvement of NGOs in the preparation and implementation of public policies and in raising the public administration's awareness of the role and importance of non-governmental organisations.

PART III

Further measures for improving the implementation of the Framework Convention Articles 1–3 of the Framework Convention

With reference to recommendation no. 33 of the Advisory Committee on pursuing dialogue with representatives of the *"new national communities" and the German-speaking community on the issue of the protection afforded to them*, Slovenia notes that, in 2013 and 2014, a broad public debate was organised in cooperation with representatives of the "new national communities" on regulating their status with a view to preserving their languages and cultures. On 24 September 2013, the Institute for Ethnic Studies organised an expert debate on different aspects of defining national minorities and other minority ethnic groups in Slovenia (which served as the base for the publication entitled *Historical, politological, legal, and cultural framework for the definition of a national minority in the Republic of Slovenia (Zgodovinski, politološki, pravni in kulturološki okvir za definicijo narodne manjšine v Republiki Sloveniji*; ed. Vera Kržišnik Bukič & Damir Josipovič, 2014, IES). On 24 October 2013, the Association of Cultural Societies of the Constitutive Nations of the Former Yugoslavia in Slovenia organised a round table in Ljubljana's Cankarjev dom Cultural and Congress Centre entitled 'Who are national minorities in Slovenia?' (which was the basis for a publication with the same title (ed. Vera Kržišnik Bukič, 2014, Association of Cultural Societies of the Constitutive Nations of the Former Yugoslavia in Slovenia).

With reference to efforts to protect members of the Roma community, Slovenia notes that a new programme document for Roma is being drafted, aimed at meeting their legitimate needs and improving their living conditions and promoting their better, faster and easier social integration, while preserving their linguistic and cultural characteristics in compliance with the needs expressed by Roma themselves.

The long-term objective and purpose of the adopted programme of measures will be to contribute to the faster social integration of Roma, enhancement and development of the Roma community, to improve mutual understanding and dialogue between Roma and the majority population, and to promote the implementation of human and minority rights. The document will include measures on various areas in compliance with Slovenian constitutional and legislative framework, which will be harmonised with the EU's 2011 framework based on the situation in Slovenia, taking into account the December 2013 Council recommendations, where required.

By publishing annual calls for applications of the competent ministry, Slovenia supports cultural projects of the Roma community aimed at the preservation, development and affirmation of its cultural and linguistic identity. Any NGO dealing with the Roma population (regardless of autochthonous status) may apply. The Ministry of Culture provides an opportunity to Roma who are not members of existing societies or the Roma Union of Slovenia (e.g. artists, intellectuals) to submit their opinions and proposals (already at the drafting stage). The Head of the Service

for Cultural Diversity has made Wednesday a regular open-door day for their initiatives. Through a call for applications, the competent ministry encourages the local community to engage in implementing the projects (projects involving cooperation with the local community receive an extra point).

There is no special public fund for programmes systematically granting protection to Roma; namely, officially recognised minorities are excluded from the public call for applications for the selection of cultural projects of minority ethnic groups and immigrants, as they are the beneficiaries of dedicated calls for applications of the Ministry of Culture. Similarly to other cultural associations in Slovenia, Roma societies may also bid under other calls for applications for co-financing from the public fund for programmes and projects, and may be included in the programming of events at the local, regional and national levels.

Collecting data on ethnicity

Data on national affiliation were traditionally collected as part of conventional censuses on the ground, which are no longer performed. The last conventional census in Slovenia was in 2002. Under the Personal Data Protection Act (Official Gazette No. [94/07](#) – official consolidated text) information on ethnic origin or national affiliation is considered as sensitive personal information, so special rules applied to collecting it:

- Answers on ethnic affiliation were not obligatory pursuant to Article 10 of the 2001 Act Regulating the Census of Population, Households and Housings in the Republic of Slovenia (Official Gazette No. 66-3056/2000) (answer on a voluntary basis);
- In accordance with the constitutional principles of the equality of nations and ethnic groups, the right to freely express affiliation with one's nation or national community (Article 61 of the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia, Official Gazette No. 33/91-I) (right to affiliation);
- Pursuant to Article 10 of the Act Regulating the Census of Population, Households and Housings in the Republic of Slovenia (Official Gazette Nos. 66/2000 and 26/2001), self-declaration of ethnic affiliation and religion by all people aged 14 and above (parents or guardians responded on behalf of children under the age of 14);
- The answer to the question on ethnic affiliation and religion had to be entered or marked precisely as given by the respondent;
- The possibility to express ethnic affiliation without the presence of an interviewer or other persons in the household (protection of privacy) by a separate questionnaire.

In 2002, during the last population census on the ground (which, according to the definition, should have included the entire population) this information was democratically collected for the entire population and each individual had the opportunity to express their ethnic affiliation or refuse to answer this question. To allow answers from temporarily absent persons (those absent from home during the interviewer's visit or away during the census as such), a separate questionnaire was provided entitled 'Statement on national/ethnic affiliation and religion', which the

interviewer left in the household with a postpaid envelope. In this manner, some 200,000 inhabitants expressed their ethnic affiliation.

Given the methodology used to collect information on ethnicity, it may be concluded that the number of declared members of individual ethnicities was underestimated, as the information on the ethnic affiliation of 8.9% of the population was unknown.

According to the Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2020 Censuses of Population and Housing, information on ethnic identity may be collected; however, it is left to individual countries to decide whether to collect it (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, paragraphs 692–712, available at http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/publications/2015/ECE_CES_41_WEB.pdf).

Although not legally binding, the document constitutes a methodological statistical reference kit. All topics in its Chapter XII (Ethno-cultural characteristics) are considered non-core topics. The Recommendations allow the option of more than one affiliation. Up to 2002, data on a single ethnic affiliation were collected; any double affiliations were classified under 'other' and shown as 'other ethnic affiliations.'

In accordance with the relevant decree and the Medium-Term Programme of Statistical Surveys 2008–2012 (Official Gazette No. 119/2007) and the Annual Programme of Statistical Surveys for 2011 (Official Gazette No. 93/2010), the first register-based census was carried out in 2011, in which data on ethnic affiliation were not collected, as, for the entire population, they are not available in any administrative source. Through the register-based census, all topics to be covered under the relevant decree were collected and sent to Eurostat. A classical census on the ground would require at least EUR 14 million from the state budget.

The Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on population and housing censuses (OJ L 218/14 of 13 August 2008) was another statutory basis for the 2011 census; however, it stipulates only obligatory topics, which do not include ethnicity. The 2021 census, which is an obligatory statistical survey for EU Member States, will be made on the same legal basis.

In accordance with the Annual Programme of Statistical Surveys for 2015 (Official Gazette No. 83/2014), a second register-based census was carried out in 2015 by using the same methodology and administrative sources as in 2011. As the competent state authority, the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia does not conduct any surveys which collect ethnicity data. Similarly, the Medium-Term Programme of Statistical Surveys 2018–2022 (being drafted) does not foresee any survey to collect data on ethnic affiliation from individuals.

It has to be stressed that census data in Slovenia were collected for statistical purposes only. Ethnic affiliation data from the 2002 census were published only in aggregate form, strictly observing the principles of statistical confidentiality and protection of personal data and the collection purpose. The Statistical Office is of the

opinion that ethnic data collection through censuses did not yield complete data (especially regarding the number of individuals opting for a particular affiliation). The analysis of 2002 data on ethnic composition showed that, owing to the uneven geographical distribution of different nationalities in Slovenia, sample surveys providing statistically relevant data on the numbers and composition of the population by ethnicity would not be feasible.

Ethnicity data collection upon registration of residence was abolished by the new Residence Registration Act (Official Gazette No. 52/16), which entered into force on 13 August 2016. According to the previous Act, ethnicity data were collected optionally (i.e. if persons wished to express their ethnic affiliation; the official had to expressly inform them of this possibility) and could not be verified by the competent authority; thus, it did not reflect reality if a false statement on ethnicity was given. The data already collected pursuant to the previous Act will have to be archived within two years of the entry into force of the new Act.

Since the data are no longer collected, information must be garnered from research projects and studies. For example, in 2014, the Institute for Ethnic Studies and the Hungarian National Self-Governing Community of the Pomurje Region conducted a case study on ethnic, cultural and linguistic diversity in the ethnically mixed area of Prekmurje. The purpose of the pilot study was to collect data, on the basis of which the impact of the existing model of minority protection could be evaluated.¹⁹

Article 4 of the Framework Convention

With reference to providing full support for the work of the Ombudsman, Slovenia notes that, in accordance with the legislation in force, the Human Rights Ombudsman is an independent body, the funds for whose work are allocated by the National Assembly from the state budget. As is evident from the budgets adopted for 2016 and 2017, the level of funding for the functioning of this body of the 2015 budget has been maintained (and even slightly increased).

Accordingly, the financing of the Ombudsman is guaranteed. As an independent constitutional body, the Ombudsman proposes its own budget to the National Assembly and is an independent budget user. If, pursuant to a justified proposal by the independent and autonomous Ombudsman to the National Assembly, which adopts the state budget independently, additional funds were required for a specific systematic and organisational project in the area of the national preventive mechanism (which is, undoubtedly, now appropriately financed), the Government would uphold the proposal. Against this background, Slovenia considers the recommendation will not be relevant in the future. Furthermore, the Government, in agreement with the Ombudsman, is drafting amendments to the Human Rights

¹⁹ For more information, see: MEDVEŠEK, Mojca, BEŠTER, Romana. *Institucionalna dvojezičnost v Prekmurju* (Institutional Bilingualism in Prekmurje). In: GRAFENAUER, Danijel (ed.), MUNDA HIRNÖK, Katalin (ed.). *Raznolikost v raziskovanju etničnosti: izbrani pogledi* (*Diversity in Ethnicity Research: Selected Perspectives*). Ljubljana: Institute for Ethnic Studies, 2016, pp. 168–190).

Ombudsman Act which would grant it Category A accreditation under the Paris Principles on the Status of National Human Rights Institutions.

Situation of Roma in housing

Slovenia notes that the regulation/improvement of the housing conditions of Roma was part of the National Programme for 2010–2015, which concluded in 2015, and remains a priority in the new programme document for Roma in preparation. The competent authorities have been cooperating closely with the relevant self-governing local communities (municipalities) on this issue. In their area of authority, municipalities independently define spatial planning principles and objectives for their spatial development, adopt decisions on land use and siting conditions, and spatial plans of local importance. All these activities are envisaged in spatial planning documents, which include municipal spatial plans and detailed spatial plans.

Due to the problems encountered particularly by small municipalities, balanced regional development budget incentives are available to areas with a Roma population. These municipalities, together with Roma councillors or members of working bodies monitoring the situation of the Roma community, identify public utility needs in these areas. The ministry responsible for economic development and technology publishes calls for applications for grants from the state budget for eligible projects.

With most Roma being beneficiaries of social benefits, mention must be made of the act on housing, which provides the most needy individuals with low-cost housing as a permanent solution to the housing issue and with housing units as a temporary solution. Under the provisions of the Act, individuals in dire need are given priority in allocating housing units, providing a temporary solution in cases of eviction; in the allocation of low-cost housing, large families, young people and young families, and materially deprived people are treated as priority categories.

The building of low-cost housing falls within the competence of municipalities, which define its volume, location and pace of construction in their municipal housing programmes. Municipalities provide low-cost housing on the basis of public calls for applications (except in the case of alternative housing due to demolition, renovation or natural disasters). However, in such calls for applications, municipalities have the discretion to determine a category that will receive priority treatment.

Article 5 of the Framework Convention

Legal and institutional framework for the support of minority culture

Through the competent ministry, Slovenia particularly supports characteristic cultural activities of the autochthonous Italian and Hungarian national communities in accordance with their expressed cultural needs. The annual cultural programmes of the Italian and Hungarian national communities are funded pursuant to Article 59 of the Exercising of the Public Interest in Culture Act (Official Gazette Nos. [77/07](#) –

official consolidated text, [56/08](#), [4/10](#), [20/11](#), and [111/13](#)). Through a direct call for applications, the Italian and Hungarian national communities are invited to submit a proposal for their respective cultural programme. This includes the activities of institutions established by the national communities and projects by other providers selected by the national community based on a call for applications.

The cultural programmes of the two national communities cover different areas, including activities for the preservation and promotion of Italian and Hungarian. These include the publication of magazines and newspapers in the two minority languages, containing original contributions and translations of fiction, essays and reviews of literature, arts and culture; magazines and newspapers for young adults, which contribute to the cultural education of children and adolescents, fiction, essays and reviews in the minority languages; bilingual translations of literature and popular science for adults and young adults; original works and translations from the area of the humanities and social sciences (particularly those concerning the language, arts and culture of the nation of origin or the minority community); dictionaries important for preserving a distinct cultural identity; and activities for preserving the mother tongue, such as students' competitions, quizzes, recitation competitions, literary contests, programmes for pre-school children and students, language summer camps, theatre, music and folklore events, etc.

In 2013, EUR 84,500 were allocated for the preservation and promotion of language within the cultural programme of the Hungarian national community, EUR 88,094 in 2014, and EUR 89,000 in 2015, while the Italian national community was allocated EUR 41,076 in 2013, EUR 38,260 in 2014 and EUR 41,600 in 2015, under budget item 131116 (Cultural activities of the Italian and Hungarian national communities) of the Ministry of Culture.²⁰

Based on direct calls for applications, the cultural programmes of the Italian and Hungarian national communities were allocated EUR 695,299 in 2015 under budget item Cultural activities of the Italian and Hungarian national communities, of which EUR 285,073 went to the cultural programme of the Italian national community and EUR 410,226 to that of the Hungarian national community. The funds were earmarked for the operation of public institutions established by the two national communities and for calls for applications for other providers.²¹

Article 6 of the Framework Convention

Legal status of persons deleted from the list of permanent residents
Slovenia's answer is provided in Part II of the report.

²⁰ The Programme of Measures of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Implementation of Regulations on Bilingualism for the 2015–2018 Period is available at: http://www.un.gov.si/fileadmin/un.gov.si/pageuploads/Nacrt_ukrepov.pdf, pp. 23–24.

²¹ Source: Letter of the Ministry of Culture No. 095/-3/42013 of 4 May 2016.

Combating intolerance and hate speech

Slovenia notes that the aim of police work within the community is to enhance the partnership relation with the local community and effectively meet different security needs. Such a relationship enables the collection of information necessary for the timely detection of security issues. Police work within the community and in prevention focuses on direct contact with the Roma community and on resolving individual issues together with other stakeholders. The Police intend to increase preventive activities in the Roma community. As a linking element they set the pace of work of various consultative bodies and expert and multidisciplinary working groups, which include representatives of the Roma community, and are actively involved in them. The work of such groups effectively prevents the rise of tensions and contributes to defining and implementing adequate measures when such situations and violations of laws arise. In working within the Roma community, the Police have consistently implemented the fundamental tasks stipulated by the Police Tasks and Powers Act (Official Gazette Nos. [15/13](#) and [23/15 – corr.](#)), the Police Organisation and Work Act (Official Gazette Nos. [15/13](#), [11/14](#) and [86/15](#)), Police rules, the Resolution on the National Programme of Crime Prevention and Suppression for 2012–2016, the Medium-term Plan of Work and Development for the period 2013–2017, and the Resolution on the Long-term Development of the Police until 2025. The key objectives are enshrined in the strategic document of the General Police Directorate, i.e. the 2013 Strategy on Police Work in the Community, and the Resolution on the Long-term Development of the Police until 2025. These include: increased partnership cooperation with the local community, state authorities and civil society; enhanced visibility and presence of police officers in local communities; increased sense of security; enhanced public trust in, and satisfaction with, the work of the Police; effective prevention and investigation of crimes.

An active role in security panels of municipalities and local communities with a Roma population is another form of Police work in the community. In certain local communities, activities of these security panels have already been launched. The exchange of information and identification of security issues regarding Police work have a clear positive impact on building trust in the work of the Police in areas with Roma settlements. However, local communities have not yet recognised the advantages of such an approach to resolving and addressing problem situations. Therefore, the Police will strive to adequately present the impact of establishing consultative bodies (a multidisciplinary approach). Another part of Police work in the community is Police participation in municipal commissions for resolving Roma issues and monitoring the situation of the Roma community. They have also been involved in drafting municipal strategies to resolve Roma issues and participate at meetings of commissions that deal with concrete problems.

On 30 June 2015, the Police concluded the project SKUPA-J, aimed at raising awareness of public servants, Roma and the general public with a view to overcoming social barriers and improving coexistence, which applied for support from the European Commission (DG Justice) Programme for Employment and Social

Solidarity – PROGRESS (2007–2013) under Section 4 – Antidiscrimination and Diversity. The project's objective was linked to recommendation no. 157: to achieve a better understanding of cultural differences and to overcome stereotypes through awareness raising and education of civil servants working with Roma, members of the Roma community and the broader public. In 2015, the Police provided training for civil servants working with Roma, which focused on useful social skills, notions of prejudice, stereotypes, xenophobia, discrimination etc., and particularly tools to better identify and prevent different forms of prejudice and intolerance. In 2015, a total of 11 workshops were conducted for staff of Slovenian social services (Slovenj Gradec, Celje, Velenje, Šentjur pri Celju, Grosuplje, and Novo Mesto), civil servants from the Črnomelj municipal administration, teachers of the Dragotin Kette Elementary School Novo Mesto and employees of the Novo Mesto Development and Education Centre, attended by 292 civil servants. The feedback from the participants showed the need for such training, which was included in the annual plan of work of the Police for 2015, and proposed as a measure in the new programme document for Roma.

With reference to the Resolution on the National Programme for Language Policy 2014–2018, Slovenia underlines the objective envisaged in the chapter on language education: to develop awareness of the diversity of communication needs and communication methods (forms of communication). The expected effects of this objective/measure include better and more tolerant communication between different groups of speakers. Another specified objective is to develop multilingual and intercultural awareness, which will be attained by preparing supplementary teaching content and materials for multilingual and intercultural communication. The expected effects are: enhancing the level of communication among different groups; raising the tolerance threshold in multilingual and multicultural environments; better communication between different participants (actors) in educational processes.

Chapter 4 of the Action Plan for Language Education²² (adopted on 13 November 2015) entitled 'Languages of minorities and immigrants in the Republic of Slovenia' specifies the following objectives and activities:

Objective	Activities
1. Enhanced language competences of speakers	Availability of elective classes in Hungarian and Italian for all interested students
	Fostering literary expression (especially YA fiction) in Romani
	Fostering the inclusion of library materials in languages of ethnic groups (immigrants) with a significant presence in the country in school and public libraries

²² More information on the Ministry of Culture website available at: http://www.mk.gov.si/fileadmin/mk.gov.si/pageuploads/Ministrstvo/raziskave-analize/slovenski_jezik/Akcijnska_nacrta/ANJI.pdf

2. Fostering multilingualism	Fostering learning of languages of ethnic groups (immigrants) with a significant presence as optional classes
	Fostering learning of Hungarian and Italian outside ethnically mixed areas
	Fostering elective classes on Roma culture
	Guaranteeing adequate programming time in public media in languages of speakers whose mother tongue is not Slovene

Discriminatory practices are defined by the Protection against Discrimination Act (Official Gazette No. [33/16](#)); Article 10 defines inciting discrimination as any incitement of other persons to carry out actions the result of which is, was or could be discrimination as per the provisions of this Act. Delivering or disseminating racist, religious, national and sexually discriminatory appeals, inducing, abetting or inciting hatred and discrimination, and broader public haranguing which promotes discrimination are considered to be aggravated forms of prohibited acts. Likewise, the public justification for neglecting or despising persons or groups of people due to personal circumstances and justifying ideas of supremacy or superiority of a person or a group of people with certain characteristics arising from personal circumstances and which are supposedly superior to those who are not part of such group are prohibited as discrimination.

In 2013, the Peace Region Alps-Adriatic dialogue project was launched, involving representatives of Slovenian and Austrian civil society, with the participation of societies of the German-speaking ethnic group in Slovenia. A joint civil society approach to the history of relations between the two nations and countries, as well as among nations within each country, consolidates communication and constructive dialogue, which lead to overcoming prejudice and stereotypes at all levels of mutual relations in the region. Above all, this is done through learning, getting to know the 'opposite' side and listening, with a view to creating a region of peace, coexistence, cooperation and a better future in this area fraught with turbulence. Open and broad public discourse on important issues is enhanced through workshops organised in Austria and Slovenia for representatives of civil society whose opinion could positively influence society at large. The project is supervised and managed by the following Slovenian and Austrian institutions: Institute for Ethnic Studies (INV), Ljubljana, Herbert C. Kelman Institute for Interactive Conflict Transformation (HKI), Vienna, Zentrum für Friedensforschung und Friedenspädagogik (ZFF), Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt/Celovec, Institut für Österreichisches, Europäisches und Vergleichendes Öffentliches Recht, Politikwissenschaft und Verwaltungslehre, Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz, Slovenski znanstveni inštitut Celovec/Slowenisches Wissenschaftsinstitut Klagenfurt (SZI). Its results include a joint statement commemorating the 100th anniversary of WWI, joint and mixed delegations of civil society representatives at ceremonies in remembrance of World Wars I and II in both countries, which have a deep impact on the established culture of remembrance of the ethnic communities and positively contribute to the coexistence of the two nations and countries. The partnership is aiming to spread the initiative to other

countries in the Alps-Adriatic region and to present initiatives by representatives and institutions to the two state presidents and to European institutions.

Support allocated to other groups

Slovenia notes that all representatives of communities of members of nations of the former SFRY, ministries and government bodies enjoy equal representation in the Government Council for Issues concerning the Communities of Members of Nations of the Former SFRY in the Republic of Slovenia, which addresses issues, requirements and proposals concerning the preservation, promotion and development of ethnic and national identities of members of all these communities.

Organisations of members of "new national communities", the German-speaking ethnic group, and of individuals submit proposals for projects reflecting their actual needs in the field of culture when responding to the calls for applications for co-financing (these stipulate only the objectives and criteria, not the project content), which are funded by the ministry responsible for culture in accordance with the legislation in force and funds available.

Articles 7 and 8 of the Framework Convention

At its 41st regular session, on 12 June 2015, the Government established the Council for Dialogue on Freedom of Religion. Its fundamental mission is to institutionalise permanent cooperation, providing for open and transparent dialogue on freedom of religion between the Government as a body with executive powers and the highest state administration body and religious communities as part of civil society in this area.

Through the competent authority for religious communities, Slovenia monitors the status of churches and other religious communities, provides professional assistance and notifies them of laws and other regulations concerning their activity. The competent authority is responsible for the registration procedure and the register of churches and other religious communities and extracts from, and information on, the register. Under the Religious Freedom Act (Official Gazette Nos. 14/07, 46/10, 40/12, and 100/13), constituent parts of churches and other religious communities are also granted legal personality. The competent authority issues legal entity certificates and is responsible for payments and budget programming for state financial support, i.e. payment of part of the social security contributions of religious workers. It participates in drafting laws and other regulations and measures on the activities of churches and other religious communities and monitors the implementation of the relevant regulations. In resolving outstanding issues of churches and other religious communities, it cooperates with ministries, other state and local authorities and organisations. It also organises debates and meetings with representatives of religious communities and, within its competence, creates the conditions for the exercise of religious freedom and equal treatment of persons regardless of religious belief through

awareness raising and monitoring the situation and by adopting regulatory and policy measures.²³

For more information, see previous reports.

Article 9 of the Framework Convention

Media in Hungarian and Italian

Through the competent authority for national minorities, Slovenia continues to support radio and television broadcasting in Hungarian and Italian in cooperation with representatives of the two national communities and the management of the public RTV Slovenia. Despite the dire economic situation, there were no funding cuts to this budget line. What is more, an additional EUR 100,000 were earmarked for co-financing of radio and television programmes in the 2016 budget.

Pursuant to the Radio and Television Corporation of Slovenia Act, the provision of unbiased information on the history, culture and languages of the ethnic minorities is a public service obligation of RTV Slovenia. As a public service, RTV Slovenia creates one radio and television channel each for the autochthonous Italian and Hungarian national communities, and its programming must provide credible and unbiased information and other programmes of importance for members of the national communities and other minority or ethnic communities.

As a public service, RTV Slovenia's programming must:

- Ensure credible and impartial informational broadcasts, whereby it should provide comprehensive information on political events at home and in neighbouring countries, important events in other European countries, especially Member States of the European Union, and important world topics, such that the content broadcast facilitates the objective of publicly informing the autochthonous Italian and Hungarian national communities in Slovenia;
- Ensure fulfilment of the constitutional rights of the Hungarian and Italian national communities in the area of public information via public radio and television, and promote ties between the national communities and their mother countries and incorporation of cultural and other achievements of the Italian and Hungarian nations into national community channels;
- Support the spread of knowledge about other cultures that are represented in Slovenia and about their representatives.

On the TV SLO 1 channel, TV Slovenia broadcasts 30-minute programmes for the Hungarian national community *Mostovi – Hidak*, *Kanape – Kanapé*, *Lučka – Pitypang*, *Pod drobnogledom – Nagyító alatt*, *Brez meja – Határtalan*, *Potepanja – Barangolások*, *Moj gost, moja gostja – Vendégem*, and *Težišče – Súlypont*, in the

²³ Source: Website of the Ministry of Culture, Office for Religious Communities, available at: http://www.mk.gov.si/si/delovna_podrocja/urad_za_verske_skupnosti/

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday afternoon 15.10 slot. The programme producers at the Lendava TV-studio present the life of the Hungarian community in Slovenia, its history, traditions and important personalities, and create programmes for children and adolescents and show how Hungarians in Slovenia preserve their language and identity.

As regards informational activities and media for members of the Italian national community, it should be noted that the EDIT publishing house in Rijeka with the A.I.A. agency in Koper (the former is co-financed and the latter fully financed by Slovenia) is engaged in publishing, and publishes the daily *La Voce del Popolo*. The following cultural and information publications are also published in the ethnically mixed area: *La Cittá*, *Il Mandracchio*, *Lasa pur dir*, *Il Trillo* and other occasional editions.

Daily radio and television programmes are produced within the national broadcaster, RTV Slovenia, at the Regional RTV Centre Koper-Capodistria (national RTV channel). There are 18 hours of radio programmes daily, which amounts to 126 hours weekly, while television programmes are broadcast for 9.5 hours on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, and for 7.5 hours on Mondays and Thursdays. National community programmes are co-financed by the state (Government Office for National Minorities) pursuant to Article 30 of the Radio and Television Corporation of Slovenia Act (Official Gazette Nos. 96/05, 109/05, 105/06, 26/09 and 9/14).²⁴

As part of its programming, the Radio Študent Institute broadcasts the *Kontrola leta* programme, made by members of the Serb ethnic group for their ethnic group and the wider audience, in cooperation with the Danilo Kiš Serbian Cultural Centre. The programme provides regular information on individuals and organisations from Serbia and Slovenia, acting as a bridge between cultural, political, scientific and other events in both countries.

In addition, within the annual call for the co-financing of media programmes the competent ministry supports the creation and broadcasting of programming important for exercising the right of the Italian and Hungarian national communities to provide public information and to be informed. The part of the public call for applications dedicated to so-called programmes of special importance, which are in Slovenia's public and cultural interest (local, regional, student and non-profit radio and television programmes), includes the criterion of "exercising the right to public information, to inform local and minority communities, to disseminate media in minority languages."

Through annual calls for the co-financing of media programmes, Slovenia provides funding for informative programmes, which also deal with issues concerning national, minority and ethnic communities in Slovenia (See Annex 1).

²⁴ More information is available on the website of the Government Office for National Minorities at: http://www.un.gov.si/si/manjsine/italijanska_narodna_skupnost/vzgojno_izobrazevalna_kulturna_in_informativna_dejavnost/

Media in Romani

Slovenia's answer is provided in Part II of the report.

Article 10 of the Framework Convention

Use of minority languages in relations with administrative authorities

The implementation of the principle of bilingualism was the topic of the 11th session of the National Assembly Commission for National Communities on 25 March 2014. The Commission established that, in principle, certain inconsistencies had been eliminated in recent years concerning the official and public use of the Italian and Hungarian languages in ethnically mixed areas. However, no great progress had been noted in practice, making it harder to preserve the respective identities and mother tongues of the autochthonous national communities. The Commission further noted a discrepancy between the regulatory arrangements and practical implementation by certain parts of the state administration, self-governing local communities, bearers of public authority, and other bodies governed by public law responsible for the official and public use of the Italian and Hungarian languages in ethnically mixed areas. Consequently, it called on the Government to adopt, by the end of September 2014 and in cooperation with the two autochthonous national communities, a programme of measures for the consistent and systemic implementation of linguistic legislation in everyday practice and to apprise the Commission thereof. The website of the National Assembly²⁵ provides, along with the convocation, the decisions and transcript of the session, and additional materials, including concerns of the representatives of the national communities regarding the implementation of bilingualism in practice.

The Government responded to the Commission's call to adopt, in cooperation with the two autochthonous national communities, a programme of measures for the consistent and systemic implementation of linguistic legislation in everyday practice. As a result, a working subgroup was established in June 2014 tasked with drafting a programme of measures for the implementation of regulations on bilingualism. It brings together representatives of the Government Office for National Minorities, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Public Administration, with the participation of one representative of each national community. Working under the organisational and administrative coordination of the Government Office for National Minorities, the working subgroup drafted a Programme of Measures of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Implementation of Regulations on Bilingualism for the 2015–2018 Period.

²⁵ Convocation for the 11th session of the Commission of the National Assembly for the National Communities

<http://www.dz-rs.si/wps/portal/Home/deloDZ/seje/izbranaSejaDt?mandat=VI&seja=05%20011.%20Redna&uid=8805A984A72D1B08C1257C9400336A58>

The Government adopted the Programme of Measures at its 47th regular session on 23 July 2015 and submitted it to the Commission of the National Assembly for the National Communities. At the same time, it instructed the line ministries responsible for individual measures to implement these measures within the established timeframe. The Programme of Measures presents the rationale for the adoption, the legal bases for implementing bilingualism and an overview of the situation of implementing bilingualism in practice, providing a set of 17 measures to improve the situation.²⁶

The working subgroup tasked with drafting a programme of measures is also responsible for monitoring its implementation. Drawing on reports from the responsible ministries, it drafts an annual report on the implementation of measures. Upon its adoption by the Government, the report is submitted to the Commission of the National Assembly for the National Communities.

On 15 July 2013, the National Assembly adopted the Resolution on the National Programme for Language Policy 2014–2018 (Official Gazette No. 62/13)²⁷, specifying that members of the Italian and Hungarian national communities enjoy the right to public and private use of their languages in the municipalities in which they live. Slovenia guarantees the right to use and develop their first languages and culture to both autochthonous national communities; their two languages enjoy the status of an official language in the municipalities populated by the Italian and Hungarian communities, respectively. In these areas, all legal entities governed by public law have an obligation both to do business and to communicate in the language of the autochthonous national community.

The Resolution objective 'Providing conditions for effective integration – both in terms of language and in general – of speakers of minority languages' provides for the following measures:

- language training of public employees and officials for communication in languages of autochthonous national communities,
- promoting the languages of autochthonous national communities in education and teaching, information and media activities, cultural activities, and scientific research.

The objective 'Providing conditions for the equal public use and development of Italian or Hungarian in areas of municipalities where there are Italian or Hungarian communities' provides for the following measures:

- systemic enhancing of conducting business and other activities in two languages,

²⁶ More information is available on the website of the Government Office for National Minorities at: http://www.un.gov.si/fileadmin/un.gov.si/pageuploads/Nacrt_ukrepov.pdf, pp. 36–37.

²⁷ More information is available on the website of the Ministry of Culture at: http://www.mk.gov.si/fileadmin/mk.gov.si/pageuploads/Ministrstvo/Zakonodaja/2013/Resolucija_-_sprejeto_besedilo_15.7.2013_.pdf

- preparation of regulations required to implement a minority languages policy,
- placement of visible signs of multilingualism in municipalities where the Italian and Hungarian national communities live,
- implementation of consumer protection in Italian and Hungarian languages in these areas,
- introduction and implementation of appropriate supervision of the implementation of legislative provisions, of the programme for language policy and of financing.

The Italian and Hungarian national communities live in the territories of the Lendava, Murska Sobota, Koper, Izola, and Piran administrative units.

Pursuant to Article 11 of the Constitution, Italian and Hungarian, respectively, are also official languages in those municipalities where Italian or Hungarian national communities reside. The Constitutional provision on the official language is implemented by organisational and procedural rules of state authorities on the language for administrative use. Individual acts reiterate the Constitutional provision on Slovene as the official language throughout the territory of Slovenia and on Italian or Hungarian also being official languages in those municipalities where Italian or Hungarian national communities reside, further elaborating and expounding on the scope and method of use of the official language in public administration. In accordance with the Constitution, Article 4, paragraph 2, of the State Administration Act (Official Gazette No. 113/05 – official consolidated text, 89/07, 126/07, 48/09, 8/10, 8/12, 21/12, 47/13, 12/14, 90/14, and 51/16) stipulates that in those municipalities where Italian or Hungarian autochthonous national communities reside, the administration shall also conduct business in the language of the national community.

Recently, several major documents on the use of language were adopted, emphasising the equal use of the languages of the two national communities living in Slovenia. In 2013, the National Assembly adopted the Resolution on the National Programme for Language Policy, which provides a language policy vision according to which Slovenia guarantees the Slovene language the dominant role in official and public life within its territory, but in parallel guarantees communication and information in other languages in compliance with the legal and democratically legitimate communication needs of its citizens, other inhabitants and visitors. Slovenia also guarantees the strengthening and consistent realisation of the language rights of constitutionally protected national communities, and facilitates the preservation and revitalisation of the languages of other linguistic groups and of immigrants.

Based on the Resolution, two working groups of external experts in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture prepared drafts of two implementing documents on language policy, which define specific terms and timeframes for the Resolution's objectives and measures. In November 2015, the Government adopted the Action Plan for Language Education.

An [inter-ministerial working group for monitoring the implementation of the language policy of the Republic of Slovenia](#) was established by a Government decision. It is comprised of civil servants from those executive bodies and bearers of public authority whose remit is directly related to language policy issues, adhering to the combined principles of responsibility and operability. This comprises responsibility for the establishment and operation of the working group inherent to the functions of the leadership of ministries and other government services, and the specific and operational responsibility of individual civil servants as its permanent members.

When preparing background documents for consideration of the Programme of Measures of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Implementation of Regulations on Bilingualism, the Ministry of Public Administration noted that the regulatory framework for the operation of bodies and public sector entities in bilingual areas was appropriate and required no amendments or improvement.

Slovenia guarantees the right to use and develop their first languages and culture to speakers and members of both autochthonous national communities; their two languages enjoy the status of an official language in the municipalities where the Italian and Hungarian communities reside. In these areas, all legal entities governed by public law have an obligation both to do business and to communicate in the language of the autochthonous national community.

The Ministry of Public Administration considers that regulatory/systemic conditions have already been met for the equal public use of Italian or Hungarian in areas of municipalities where the Italian or Hungarian communities reside.

In the course of their regular work, the services of the Ministry of Public Administration compile answers to questions received by various parties on guaranteeing the right of the national communities to bilingual business operations. The Ministry repeatedly issues systematic explanations advising of the appropriate conduct of work in the language of the national community, of the inclusion of the requirement of knowledge of the language of the national community for recruitment purposes, and the appropriate calculation of bilingualism bonus in state administration authorities (all ministries, bodies within the ministries, government services and administrative units). The Ministry advises the authorities to instruct all public sector entities in the ethnically mixed areas that they should ensure the use of the language of the national community in their day-to-day operations, in particular:

- Ensure operations in the language of the national community of public sector entities and bodies in the bilingual area,
- Establish appropriate organisational and staffing conditions for operations in the language of the national community (job classification and recruitment).

The Ministry of Public Administration, which is also responsible for local self-government, has noted similar problems at the local level. While the regulatory framework is exemplary, difficulties sometimes arise in the day-to-day operations of

municipal administrative bodies. Given that, in its supervisory capacity, the Ministry has not as yet received any complaints from aggrieved individuals, it is of the opinion that any problems encountered in practice are adequately resolved on a case-by-case basis. Nevertheless, the Ministry aspires to unify the standard of the actual use of bilingualism in all nine municipalities (Ankaran, Izola, Koper, Piran, Lendava, Šalovci, Hodoš, Moravske Toplice, and Dobrovnik), since the coastal municipalities long ago took an active position on ensuring bilingualism, whereas the municipalities in the north-east of the country are slowly following suit. For this purpose, the Ministry has launched systematic activities to train all stakeholders involved in exercising public authority at the local level both at the adoption and implementation phases. Particular attention is devoted to the consistent implementation of bilingualism in performing services of general economic interest.

As administrative authorities, the Izola, Koper, Piran, Murska Sobota and Lendava administrative units must ensure bilingualism in conducting administrative procedures in accordance with the relevant legislation, issuing bilingual forms, providing information and in communicating with clients. The administrative units provide leaflets facilitating the exercise of rights and obligations and other benefits of clients.

They operate in a way that ensures members of the Italian and Hungarian national communities unhindered use of their respective languages. With regard to the use of Italian, it should be noted that procedures of administrative units are conducted bilingually, even if the applicant is not a member of the national community, but later becomes involved in the proceedings as a party or third-party participant. With regard to the use of Hungarian, it should be noted that decisions in summary procedures are published in both languages; at the party's request, fact-finding procedures are bilingual, as well as regular procedures if the party at any time should so request.

Administrative units ensure that their employees have an appropriate knowledge of the language of the respective national community and appropriate skills. Pursuant to the Civil Servants Act (Official Gazette Nos. 63/07 – official consolidated text, 65/08, 69/08, 69/08, and 40/12), if, by virtue of law, certain positions require that the languages of national communities be used, knowledge of such languages is a condition for such positions. Based on the Decree on the Internal Organisation, Job Classification, Posts and Titles in Public Administration and Judicial Bodies, administrative units have adopted regulations on internal organisation and staffing structure, which require an adequate knowledge of the language of the national community for certain posts.

An example of good practice is the cooperation between the Lendava and Murska Sobota administrative units, with a civil servant (translator) of the Murska Sobota administrative unit giving free courses in Hungarian for employees of the Lendava administrative unit in 2014 and 2015. The Lendava administrative unit offers internships each year to at least one student from the Hungarian national community.

Based on Decree on the provision and re-use of public information (Official Gazette No. 24/16), the Lendava administrative unit prepared a catalogue and provided public information also in the language of the national community (Article 3).

In 2015, a pilot survey was conducted at the Izola and Murska Sobota administrative units on the satisfaction of users of administrative services. According to the Decree on Administrative Operations, a survey must be conducted every two years. During the pilot survey, users of the Murska Sobota administrative unit were able to complete a questionnaire in Slovene or in both Slovene and Hungarian, whereas those of the Izola administrative unit, also in Italian.

Prior to the overhaul of the E-Government 2 state web portal in late 2015, the above administrative units designed their own forms to facilitate their work (the Lendava and Murska Sobota administrative units, which employ a translator), or these were prepared by the line ministry (Izola, Koper, Piran). The administrative units were actively involved in shaping the content of the new web portal: they reviewed the list of non-compulsory forms that had been translated and provided information; the relevant forms will have to be translated for publication on the E-Government 2 portal.

An important novelty introduced in 2016 is authentication in the languages of the national communities by means of customised authentication software, which is an important contribution to ensuring the equal status of members of the national communities.

In 2016, the Izola, Koper and Piran municipalities participated in a joint call for applications of the General Secretariat of the Government for translation, language editing of international agreements and treaties, copy editing and court certified translation in the segment 'Translation and language editing (Slovene into Italian)', and have earmarked the corresponding funds in their financial plans for the 2017–2019 period.

As part of inter-ministerial coordination, the line ministry has consistently urged that forms annexed to regulations must be provided in both languages, and also those that facilitate the work of administrative units.

The translation of the websites of administrative units in areas where members of the Italian and Hungarian national community reside (Murska Sobota, Lendava, Izola, Koper, and Piran) into the languages of the two national communities began in July 2016, and should be completed by the end of September 2016. As a first step, the entire website content will be translated, with the exception of the News tab, which is specific to each administrative unit.

During the implementation phase of the Programme of Measures of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Implementation of Regulations on Bilingualism for the 2015–2018 Period, the Ministry of Justice noted that the rules on

the contents and format of envelopes for service by post in judicial proceedings (Rules on the envelope for service by post in civil procedure, Rules on the envelope for service of documents by mail in civil and criminal procedures, and Rules on the envelope for service by mail in the procedure for registering in the court register and for being struck from the court register without liquidation) for the areas of municipalities where, besides Slovene, the Italian or Hungarian language is also an official language of the court, stipulate that issuing and using bilingual envelopes is obligatory; however, the annex to these rules provides only for an envelope in Slovene. Therefore, the Ministry launched activities to provide specimens of envelopes in the languages of the national communities by providing for translations of text on envelopes for service into Italian and Hungarian. In designing bilingual envelopes, it was established that the text (particularly of notices to parties and the court) was too long and (the bilingual text) hard to understand.

As a result, the Ministry of Justice drafted new Rules on the envelope for service by post in civil procedure and Rules on the envelope for service of documents by mail in civil and criminal procedures with a view to optimising the text on the envelope, while still meeting the statutory requirements for service, and allowing the design of a bilingual envelope with the Slovene text accompanied by an easily readable translation in the respective language of the Italian and Hungarian national communities. The amended rules, issued by the Minister of Justice on 28 July and published in the Official Gazette No. 53/16 of 5 August 2016, entered into force on 20 August 2016. The Ministry of Justice provided the Italian and Hungarian translations of the part of the rules printed on the envelope and forwarded them to the Supreme Court to ensure the timely preparation and supply of envelopes to bilingual areas.

The Ministry also provided translations of forms for clients wishing to obtain information from official records kept by the Ministry. These include standard forms for obtaining proof of no criminal record, the optional form for filing a request for supervision and a claim for damages (along with the instructions on completing the form) in Italian and Hungarian, which were then published on the Ministry's website. The translation of the forms providing for the exercise of certain rights into the languages of the national communities was made because of the specific needs of clients.

Pursuant to the Roma Community Act, Slovenia strives to promote, preserve and ensure the development of Romani and of Roma culture.

In addition to the solutions envisaged by the Action Plan for Language Education, emphasis is given to the promotion of the languages of autochthonous national communities and the Roma community, other minority ethnic groups, and immigrants in education, information and media services, culture and scientific research, all of which contributes to coordinated planning, shaping and implementing language education policies, to increasing the number of civil servants and officials with linguistic competence in the languages of the autochthonous national communities, to ensure enough media presence of the languages of the

autochthonous national communities and the Roma community, other minority ethnic groups, and immigrants, and to raising awareness of these languages among other Slovenian citizens in the fields of education, information and media services, culture and scientific research. Article 4 of the Roma Community Act stipulates that the Republic of Slovenia shall promote the preservation and development of Romani as well as the cultural, information and publishing activity of the Roma community. Programmes and projects intended especially for the Roma community are also funded pursuant to Article 65 of the Exercising of the Public Interest in Culture Act (Official Gazette Nos. 77/07 – official consolidated text, 56/08, 4/10, 20/11, 100/11, and 111/13). These provisions are implemented by way of a dedicated annual programme compiled on the basis of an annual call for applications.

Since Romani is not an official language in Slovenia, its administrative use cannot be expected. However, certain administrative units (e.g. in Murska Sobota) and other institutions (social services, schools) have employed members of the Roma community (so-called Roma assistants), or some of their employees learn the basics of Romani in order to better communicate and establish a better relationship with Roma.

The last report of the Human Rights Ombudsman (20th Annual Report of the Human Rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Slovenia for 2014, Ljubljana, June 2015) notes that in the year in question, the Office of the Ombudsman received no petitions concerning discrimination directly related to the violations of special rights guaranteed to the two self-managing national communities and their members under the Constitution and relevant legislation.

It should be noted that activities to promote multilingualism include ensuring adequate programming space in public media in the languages of non-native speakers of Slovene. As part of its public service, RTV Slovenia broadcasts a radio and television channel each for the autochthonous Italian and Hungarian national communities and radio and television programmes for the Roma ethnic community.

Well aware of its importance and responsibility to all Slovenian citizens, the Slovenian language policy takes into account all non-native speakers of Slovene (members of the Italian and Hungarian national communities, the Roma community, immigrants, and all those in Slovenia and abroad who come, or wish to come, in contact with Slovene). As a result, it strives for the promotion and use of Slovene at all levels and for all target groups, while paying equal attention to the quality of foreign language teaching and the adequate distribution of foreign languages in accordance with the cultural traditions and economic needs of Slovenia.

Article 11 of the Framework Convention

Article 5 (personal name of members of national communities) of the Personal Name Act (Official Gazette No. 20/2006) stipulates that the personal name of a member of the Italian or Hungarian national community shall be entered in the Births, Deaths

and Marriages Registry in the Italian or Hungarian script and form, unless otherwise decided by a member of the national community.

The Statute of the Piran Municipality (Primorske novice, Official Announcements No. 10/99, as amended) stipulates that the original personal name of a member of the Italian national community shall be respected and shall not be modified in writing (Article 76).

Members of the Italian and Hungarian national communities have the right to equal public and private use of their languages in the areas where they live.

The Act Designating Areas and Naming and Marking Settlements, Streets and Buildings (Official Gazette No. 25/08) stipulates that the names of settlements must be in the Slovene language. In the area of municipalities where, in addition to Slovene, the Italian or Hungarian language is used as an official language, the names of settlements shall be in the Slovene and the Italian or Hungarian languages (Article 9).

With regard to the Ordinance on the Naming of Settlements, the Act stipulates that prior to adopting any ordinance on the names of settlements in ethnically mixed areas, the municipalities concerned must obtain the consent of the relevant self-governing national community. The relevant self-governing national community shall give its consent through the members of the municipal council representing a national community (Article 17).

The Act further stipulates that street names must be in the Slovene language. In the area of municipalities where, in addition to Slovene, the Italian or Hungarian language is used as an official language, street names shall be in the Slovene and the Italian or Hungarian languages (Article 20). The Act further stipulates that streets must be marked with street name plates. The street names on the name plates must be in the Slovene language. In the area of municipalities where, in addition to Slovene, the Italian or Hungarian language is used as an official language, the names of streets on street name plates shall be in the Slovene and the Italian or Hungarian languages (Article 23).

Article 71 of the Statute of the Lendava Municipality (Official Gazette No. 75/10) stipulates that in the ethnically mixed area, signboards designating settlements and streets, announcements, notices and warnings, as well as other public signs shall be bilingual. In the ethnically mixed area, all municipal and state authorities, enterprises, economic organisations, private businesses, public institutions, associations and other organisations and communities must have bilingual signboards. The equal appearance of both languages must be guaranteed on these signboards.

Article 12 of the Framework Convention

Situation of Roma in the education system

Following the adoption of the National Programme of Measures for Roma of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Period 2010–2015, the Strategy for the Education of Roma in the Republic of Slovenia of 2004 was amended in 2011 after an evaluation carried out in 2010²⁸ in which the work done between 2004 and 2010 was taken into consideration and areas requiring closer attention were identified. In 2015, a working group for monitoring the implementation of the Strategy was appointed; the working group convenes at the competent ministry several times a year to discuss amendments.

The 2011 Strategy devotes special attention to the areas which were not dealt with in detail in the 2004 Strategy, namely preschool and secondary education, and also covers graduate and post-graduate studies and adult education.

The 2011 Strategy retains all the groundwork, principles and objectives contained in the 2004 Strategy, and proposes new objectives:

- Importance of education in increasing social, human and cultural capital; education as formation for independent life, assuming responsibility and accepting consequences;
- Importance of education in early childhood and systemic provision of equal opportunities for all preschool children;
- Importance of education in reducing social marginalisation and/or exclusion;
- Importance of overcoming linguistic barriers by learning the mother tongue and the Slovene language as a first foreign language from a very early age;
- Importance of education for sustainable development;
- Importance of education in reducing social marginalisation;
- Importance of life-long learning;
- Importance of Roma settlements and construction of multi-purpose facilities in Roma settlements intended for various annual or short-term morning and afternoon education programmes, workshops, lectures (preschool education as a year-long everyday preparation programme for children up to 5 years of age; tutoring of pupils and secondary school students included in regular education programmes; extracurricular activities; adult education for obtaining special skills and primary education facilitating employment and independent life); the facility would also house the office of a Roma councillor, an office for visits of social services, health-centre and health education staff (pediatric and dental nurses, etc.), and a multi-purpose hall for social gatherings, events, meetings, sports and dance activities;
- The focus on a Roma settlement, which should provide tested and effective preschool preparation programmes in areas with a low participation of Roma children in institutional education and low social status due to parents'

²⁸ Strategy for the Education of Roma in the Republic of Slovenia (amendment to the 2004 Strategy). Accessible at: http://www.mizs.gov.si/fileadmin/mizs.gov.si/pageuploads/podrocje/razvoj_solstva/projekti/Strategija_Romi_dopolnitev_2011.pdf (3 February 2016)

unemployment; the programmes should be adapted to the specific features and needs of the environment and of each particular family. It should be underlined that certain reservations have been expressed with regard to providing preschool education in Roma settlements, as special preschool classes in Roma settlements would mean a setback in the process of Roma children's integration and might lead to the establishment of ghettos "through the back door". The warning about Roma settlements as potential ghettos should be taken in all seriousness. This is why it is necessary to find the ways to design activities facilitating greater integration of Roma children into the wider social environment;

- Importance of education for improving (self)employment opportunities;
- Importance of education for the mobility of all in modern society, including Roma. It is usually much easier to increase social capital in the urban environment outside Roma settlements. However, in order to enter this environment and live in it, it is necessary to obtain adequate education, which opens more possibilities for employment;
- Importance of establishing mutual trust among Roma and the majority population, and overcoming prejudice on both sides;
- Resolution on the National Programme of Adult Education in the Republic of Slovenia for the 2013–2020 Period (hereinafter: Resolution): The aim of the Resolution as a strategic development document in adult education is to provide all adults in Slovenia with equal opportunities to obtain good-quality education in all periods of life. By implementing the Resolution, Slovenia wishes to close the most significant development gaps, particularly regarding the basic and vocational capabilities of the adult population, their education and inclusion in life-long education by 2020. The Resolution identifies vulnerable adults as one of the target groups, and includes Roma in this group;
- Some progress in attaining the above-mentioned objectives has already been made in various areas, particularly with projects funded by the European Social Fund and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport. On the basis of specific project evaluations, areas relevant to Roma education were included in Roma-related public calls for applications issued by the competent ministry.

Between 2008 and 2015, the ministry responsible for education carried out a number of important national projects, thus fulfilling the commitments and measures in the Strategy; these projects were implemented on the basis of the 2004 and 2011 Strategies and in cooperation with Roma when drafting the underlying documents. The projects 'Successful inclusion of Roma in education I' (2008–2011) and 'Successful inclusion of Roma in education II' (2011–2014) introduced and enhanced the work of Roma assistants in primary education, and significantly contributed to dealing with and eliminating non-attendance, which has led to better school results. The project 'The increase in social and cultural capital in areas with a Roma population' (2010–2013) was an important step forward in designing innovative and creative educational practices in Roma communities, focusing on preschool education, the education and training of teachers, social workers and professionals in NGOs working with Roma children and youth, as well as in the practical implementation of various forms of extracurricular activities for Roma children, youth and parents in Roma communities. The work achieved was followed

up by the project 'Together towards knowledge – meeting the objectives of the Strategy for education of Roma in the Republic of Slovenia' (2014–2015), which focused on three basic areas: Roma assistants, Roma incubators and extracurricular activities. From 2016 to 2021, these activities, which put a special emphasis on the preschool education of Roma children, are being carried out in the framework of the project 'Together for knowledge – activities related to support mechanisms for knowledge acquisition for Roma community members'. Recently, in keeping with the vision and objectives of the Resolution on the National Programme of Adult Education in the Republic of Slovenia for the 2013–2020 Period, a great deal of attention in Roma communities has been devoted to counselling and information activities for vulnerable adult groups (including Roma), the implementation of validated programmes for the undereducated, vulnerable groups and students who fail to complete their schooling within statutory time limits, and other informal programmes aimed at improving basic capabilities.

Additional support for the culture-related projects of the Roma associations and the Roma Union of Slovenia, which include presentations of Roma culture in educational institutions, is provided by the Ministry of Culture.

Article 13 of the Framework Convention

Public and private nursery schools

The legislation provides the legal basis for founding public and private nursery schools. Public nursery schools can be founded by municipalities, while private nursery schools may be founded by domestic and foreign natural or legal persons. When a nursery school is entered in the court register of companies as a legal person, it can be [listed in the register](#) of validated education programme providers kept by the Ministry. A proposal for listing in the register is filed by the local community which founds a public nursery school or by the public nursery school itself, and in the case of a private nursery school, the said institution itself.

Private nursery schools

Private nursery schools also differ from public ones in terms of their programmes. The programme of a private nursery school is defined by the founder on the basis of Article 13 of the Preschool Institutions Act (Official Gazette No. [100/05](#) – official consolidated text, [25/08](#), [98/09](#), [36/10](#), [62/10](#), [94/10](#), [40/12](#), [14/15](#)); alternatively, the founder may decide to implement the programme provided by public nursery schools. Prior to the beginning of programme implementation, a private nursery school must obtain approval from the [Council of Experts of the Republic of Slovenia for General Education](#). Private nursery schools that carry out preschool programmes on the basis of special educational principles (Steiner, Decroly, Montessori, etc.) receive approval after the Council of Experts has established that the programme is recognised by a relevant international association.

Private nursery schools – like public ones – may only start operation after being entered in the Ministry registry, prior to which a preschool institution needs to demonstrate that it meets the requirements laid down with regard to professional staff, premises and equipment. If so dictated by the preschool education needs, a municipality may grant a concession to a private nursery school.

Granting a concession (Articles 73–77 of the Organisation and Financing of Education Act (Official Gazette Nos. [16/07](#) – official consolidated text, [36/08](#), [58/09](#), [64/09 – corr.](#), [65/09 – corr.](#), [20/11](#), [40/12](#), [57/12](#), [47/15](#), [46/16](#) and [49/16 – corr.](#)) means that a private nursery school performs a public service and provides the same programme as a public nursery school, and the amount of funds provided by the municipality is determined in a special concession contract. Private nursery schools without concessions may acquire a right to obtain funds from local community budgets if they fulfil the following conditions: provide at least a half-day programme, have at least one group of preschool children, employ or in some other way ensure preschool teachers and their assistants who carry out the programme in accordance with the Act and other regulations and are available to all children (Article 34 of the Preschool Institutions Act).²⁹

Private schools

The following private elementary schools carrying out state-approved education programmes have been established in Slovenia:³⁰

- [Waldorf School Ljubljana](#), where classes began in the 1992/1993 school year and which provides an elementary school programme on the basis of special educational principles.
- [Alojzij Šuštar Primary School Ljubljana](#), where classes began in the 2008/2009 school year and which provides a Catholic elementary school programme as an organisational unit of St. Stanislav's Institution.
- [Montessori Institute, Child Development Support Center](#), where classes began in the 2010/2011 school year and which provides a Montessori elementary school programme on the basis of special educational principles.
- [The Waldorf School Maribor private education institution, which](#) has operated as an independent school since the 2015/2016 school year (before that, it was an organisational unit of Waldorf School Ljubljana). Waldorf

²⁹ Source: website of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, accessible at: http://www.mizs.gov.si/si/delovna_podrocja/direktorat_za_predsolsko_vzgojo_in_osnovno_solstvo/predsolska_vzgoja/#c17792

³⁰ Source: website of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport accessible at: http://www.mizs.gov.si/si/delovna_podrocja/direktorat_za_predsolsko_vzgojo_in_osnovno_solstvo/osnovno_solstvo/osnovna_sola/zasebne_osnovne_sole/#c17849

School Maribor provides the Waldorf nine-year elementary school programme.

- [The Montessori Elementary School, part of the Anton Martin Slomšek Maribor education institution](#), has operated as an organisational unit of the institution in Maribor since the 2015/2016 school year and offers the Montessori elementary school programme.

The Organisation and Financing of Education Act (Official Gazette No. 16/07 – official consolidated text with amendments) stipulates that education professionals must have appropriate education, must be fluent in the Slovene language and – when working in educational institutions in ethnically mixed areas established to provide bilingual education – also in the language of the national community.

The Act Guaranteeing Special Rights to Members of the Italian and Hungarian National Communities in the Field of Education (Official Gazette No. 35/01 with amendments) *inter alia* stipulates that in bilingual educational institutions, education is provided by professionals fluent in both languages.

The Organisation and Financing of Education Act defines the basic orientations for organising the public network of nursery schools and schools, which also apply to the education of members of the Italian and Hungarian national communities. Furthermore, the Act Guaranteeing Special Rights to Members of the Italian and Hungarian National Communities in the Field of Education provides for additional protection of the public education network with regard to members of the Italian and Hungarian national communities by imposing the requirement for the mandatory consent of the Slovenian Government to changes in the education network in ethnically mixed areas. In addition to Government consent, the relevant self-governing national community must also consent to any change in the education network. The Act thus provides an additional safeguard in terms of meeting the needs of national communities, and ensures respect for international commitments made by Slovenia.

The founder of public nursery schools and public elementary schools for members of national communities is the local community, while grammar schools, vocational and secondary technical schools are founded by the State. Article 41 of the Organisation and Financing of Education Act stipulates that public nursery schools and schools founded to provide bilingual education shall be co-founded by the self-governing national community. Participation in the management of public nursery schools and public schools through representatives in the council is governed by Article 46 of the Organisation and Financing of Education Act and Article 13 of the Act Guaranteeing Special Rights to Members of the Italian and Hungarian National Communities in the Field of Education.³¹

³¹ Programme of Measures of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Implementation of Regulations on Bilingualism for the 2015–2018 Period, p. 9, 10, 24 and 25, accessible on the website of the Government Office for National Minorities at:

http://www.un.gov.si/fileadmin/un.gov.si/pageuploads/Nacrt_ukrepov.pdf

Article 14 of the Framework Convention

Instruction in minority languages and learning of these languages

Education for members of the Italian and Hungarian national communities is an integral part of the education system in the Republic of Slovenia. The objectives of the system are defined in the Organisation and Financing of Education Act and in relevant legislation determining the goals of particular parts of the education system.³²

Specific features of the education system and the exercise of special rights of the national communities in education are governed by the Act Guaranteeing Special Rights to Members of the Italian and Hungarian National Communities in the Field of Education (Official Gazette No. 35/01).

This Act regulates in more detail the special education objectives for members of the Italian and Hungarian national communities, special organisational features, the network of nursery schools and schools, and adaptation of validated programmes, and specifies special conditions for professionals employed in nursery schools and schools, bilingual instruction and funding for the construction of nursery schools and schools.

The Organisation and Financing of Education Act is based on the premise that education for members of the Italian and Hungarian national communities is an integral part of the system of education in the Republic of Slovenia; furthermore, it determines special objectives which enable members of the national communities to preserve their linguistic and cultural identities, and promotes the harmonious coexistence of people living in ethnically mixed areas. In order to achieve these objectives and enforce the rights of national communities' members, the Act determines special conditions for the planning, organisation and implementation of education. The provisions of the Act are based on the premise that the achieved level of protection of both national communities in education must be preserved and protected, duly taking into account the international legal instruments regulating the rights of minorities. The Act takes into consideration the constitutional provision stipulating that laws, regulations and other general legal instruments that concern the exercise of constitutionally provided rights and the status of national communities exclusively may not be adopted without the consent of representatives of these national communities.

In ethnically mixed areas populated by Slovenes and members of the Italian national community, instruction for members of the Italian community is provided in the Italian language. In this area, three secondary schools providing instruction in Italian

³² Programme of Measures of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Implementation of Regulations on Bilingualism for the 2015–2018 Period, p. 24, accessible on the website of the Government Office for National Minorities at:

http://www.un.gov.si/fileadmin/un.gov.si/pageuploads/Nacrt_ukrepov.pdf

have been established, in addition to elementary schools with Italian as the language of instruction. After graduating from secondary school, a small percentage of students seek employment, while most go on to study at higher education or university institutions in Slovenia, and some in Italy.

In the ethnically mixed areas along the coast, the following preschool institutions with the Italian as language of instruction have been established: 'Delfino Blu', Koper, 'Dante Alighieri', Izola, and 'La Coccinella', Piran.

The following elementary schools with affiliated schools provide instruction in Italian: the Dante Alighieri Elementary School, Izola; Pier Paolo Vergerio il Vecchio Elementary School, Koper, with affiliated schools in Semedela, Bertoki and Hrvatini; and Vincenzo e Diego de Castro Elementary Schools, Piran, with affiliated schools in Lucija and Sečovelje.

The following secondary schools provide instruction in Italian: Antonio Sema Grammar School, Piran, Gian Rinaldo Carli Grammar School, Koper, and Pietro Coppo Secondary School, Izola.

The Italian language and literature may be studied at the University of Ljubljana (Faculty of Arts, Department for Romance Languages and Literature) and the University of Primorska in Koper (Faculty of Humanities, Chair for Italian Studies within the Department for Applied Linguistics). Members of the Italian national community can also study at universities in Italy (particularly when they wish to study other, non-linguistic subjects in the Italian language) and in Croatia (Rijeka, Pula).³³

In ethnically mixed areas in which the Hungarian national community resides, bilingual instruction in preschool institutions and schools is provided in Slovene and Hungarian. These preschool institutions and schools are attended by children of Slovenian and Hungarian nationalities. Such a method of work enables the children to learn a second language in addition to their mother tongue and become familiar with the culture of the other nation.

Educational activities are carried out in both languages. When learning the mother tongue and the second language, children are divided into groups, which enables them to learn their mother tongue at an advanced level.

For students and apprentices who complete elementary school in the language of a national community or bilingual elementary school and who enrol in secondary schools outside the ethnically mixed area, such schools, alone or together with other schools, must provide classes in the language of the national community as an optional subject. Courses in the language of the national community are provided if at least five students or apprentices wish to attend, and are free of charge.

³³ More information is available on the website of the Government Office for National Minorities at: http://www.un.gov.si/si/manjsine/italijanska_narodna_skupnost/vzgojno_izobrazevalna_kulturna_in_informativna_dejavnost/

Classes in preschool institutions and schools providing instruction in Italian are given by education professionals fluent in Italian as the language of instruction.

In bilingual educational institutions, education is provided by professionals fluent in both languages. When employing teaching staff, bilingual nursery schools and bilingual schools must ensure proportional representation of professionals of Slovenian nationality and those belonging to the Hungarian national community.

One of the major challenges that preschool institutions with Italian as the language of instruction face is recruiting professional workers with the appropriate education. The Italian national community has difficulty in ensuring the required number of appropriately educated professionals. In such cases, preschool institutions and schools ensure professional staff from neighbouring Croatia or Italy. To resolve this problem, the Act contains a provision that a preschool institution or a school may employ a visiting foreign teacher for up to two years.

Professional staff in nursery schools and schools with Italian as the language of instruction must also be fluent in Slovene to the level determined by the competent minister, and in bilingual schools, they must be fluent in both languages. In both cases, during their two-year employment, a visiting teacher must learn the Slovene language, whereupon his or her employment contract may be extended for another two years.

The development and advisory activities required in the education process of members of the Italian and Hungarian communities are provided by the public institution responsible for general education, i.e. the National Education Institute, which also has professional workers from the national communities on its staff.

In accordance with the Act Guaranteeing Special Rights to Members of the Italian and Hungarian National Communities in the Field of Education (Official Gazette No. 35/01), the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport must ensure textbooks for bilingual elementary and secondary schools and schools with Italian as the language of instruction, and provide funds for financing reviews of imported textbooks (required in the approval process). All activities related to imported textbooks at the National Education Institute are coordinated, and teaching materials are selected by a counsellor responsible for the education of national communities.

The Preschool Institutions Act stipulates that the funds required to cover the higher expenses in educational institutions where Italian is used as the language of instruction or in bilingual institutions are to be provided from the state budget.

Salaries and contributions are fully covered from the state budget, as in other schools in Slovenia. Professional workers using Italian or Hungarian in their work

receive a special bonus payment.³⁴ The financing of bilingual public preschool institutions and schools is based on norms and standards; however, before these norms and standards can be adopted, the minister responsible for education must obtain the consent of both self-governing national communities. The Act also regulates investments in preschool institutions and schools where the language of instruction is Italian, and in bilingual preschool institutions and schools. The construction and equipment of nursery schools and schools established to meet the needs of national communities are thus funded from the state budget, while the plot of land for the school with infrastructure in place is provided by the local community.

Article 7 of the Act Guaranteeing Special Rights to Members of the Italian and Hungarian National Communities in the Field of Education (Official Gazette No. 35/01) stipulates: "Prior to the adoption or determination of programmes under Article 5 of this Act, the competent council of experts must acquire the opinion of the competent body of the Italian and/or Hungarian self-governing national community in the Republic of Slovenia. The competent council of experts cannot adopt or determine an educational programme without the agreement of the council members representing the Italian and/or Hungarian self-governing community."

A committee for minority education consisting of three members has been established within the Council of Experts for General Education. Two members are representatives of each national community and also members of the Council of Experts. The committee deals with issues relating to education in ethnically mixed areas. At the same time, the committee submits opinions to the Council of Experts regarding the adoption of syllabuses, curricula, the adaptation of programmes, etc. in these areas.

Article 24 of the same Act stipulates:

"The minister responsible for education must acquire the consent of the competent body of the Italian and/or Hungarian self-governing national community in the

³⁴ On the basis of Article 28 of the Public Sector Salary System Act (Official Gazette No. 108/09), employees using the majority and minority languages in their work are entitled to receive a bilingualism bonus:

(1) The bilingualism bonus shall pertain to public servants and judges, public prosecutors and state attorneys who work in municipalities where the Hungarian and Italian ethnic communities live and where Hungarian or Italian is an official language if knowledge of the language of the ethnic community is a condition for performing the work or function.

(2) The amount of the bonus specified in the preceding paragraph shall amount to:

- between 12% and 15% of the basic salary for teachers and other expert staff in primary and secondary education, teachers and other expert staff at nursery schools and journalists at the RTV Slovenija public institution,
- between 3% and 6% of the basic salary for other public servants,

- up to 6% of the basic salary for judges, public prosecutors and state attorneys.

(3) The size of the bonus specified in the first and second indents of the preceding paragraph shall be stipulated by the director, and that of the bonus specified in the third indent shall be stipulated by the judicial council for judges, by the personnel commission for public prosecutors and by the State Attorney General for state attorneys, on the basis of the level of knowledge of the language of the ethnic community required and the actual use of the language when working.

Republic of Slovenia concerning norms and standards which form the basis for financing public pre-school institutions and schools with Italian as the language of instruction and public bilingual pre-school institutions and schools." Prior to the adoption of rules on norms and standards serving as the basis for organising and financing schools from the state budget, including bilingual elementary schools and schools with Italian as the language of instruction in ethnically mixed areas, both self-governing national communities gave their consent in compliance with the Act.

On the basis of bilateral agreements, Italy and Hungary each appoint an adviser for Italian and Hungarian, respectively. The advisers come from Italy and Hungary, respectively. The National Education Institute provides them with professional assistance and coordinates their activities.³⁵

A special working group for minority education headed by the state secretary has been set up within the competent ministry; both presidents of the Hungarian and the Italian national communities are members of the group, which holds regular monthly meetings and deals with outstanding issues in minority education.

Article 15 of the Framework Convention

Participation of minorities in public affairs

With regard to training Roma councillors, the Association for the Development of the Roma Minority 'Preporod', in its half-yearly report on the implementation of the 2016 programme, stated that the Association endeavoured to carry out various activities assisted with financial resources obtained from the state authority responsible for minorities. This year's activities primarily cover four key areas: the sustainable inclusion of the Roma community members in the environment, more effective political involvement and advocacy of the Roma community, empowerment of Roma women and youth to foster personal and family development, and last but not least, Roma centres as a supportive environment for the development of the Roma community.

The priority tasks of the 'Preporod' Association in 2016 include more effective political involvement and advocacy of the Roma community. In cooperation with the Forum of Roma Councillors, the Association individually trains Roma councillors for active involvement in municipal and city councils by providing professional support in project activities. This kind of support is given with regard to addressing and interpreting topical municipal issues and in preparing substantive backgrounds related to the Roma community. These activities are carried out during regular working meetings.

³⁵ Programme of Measures of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Implementation of Regulations on Bilingualism for the 2015–2018 Period is available at: http://www.un.gov.si/fileadmin/un.gov.si/pageuploads/Nacrt_ukrepov.pdf, pp. 24–29.

The Forum of Roma Councillors and the 'Preporod' Association, in cooperation with the Government Office for National Minorities, organised a working meeting concerning the call for applications for co-funding projects related to basic utility infrastructure in Roma settlements in 2016 and 2017. At the meeting, on 23 June 2016, Roma councillors, representatives of the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology and of the Office for National Minorities primarily analysed the current infrastructure situation in Roma settlements. They concluded that Roma in Slovenia are regionally very divided and live in different socially and regionally specific environments. During the meeting, the participants discussed the call for applications for co-funding projects related to basic utility infrastructure in Roma settlements in 2016 and 2017 issued by the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology. This is why a representative of the Ministry working in the Directorate for Regional Development was invited to the meeting to share with the participants detailed information about the selection process and the projects. At the end of the meeting, the Roma councillors decided that in September, the Novo Mesto Municipality, in cooperation with the Forum of Roma Councillors and the Government Office for National Minorities, would hold consultations on participation in laying down the criteria for the call for applications related to infrastructure planning in Roma settlements and for the transfer of good practices.

With regard to the election of a Roma councillor in the Municipality of Grosuplje, Slovenia would like to clarify that in November 2002, the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Slovenia established that the statute of the Municipality of Grosuplje was inconsistent with the Local Self-Government Act, as it failed to stipulate that the Municipal Council should include a Roma community representative. The ministry responsible for local self-government has admonished the Municipality of Grosuplje on several occasions. In accordance with the Act, the Government may propose to the National Assembly to have a municipal council dissolved if the council disregards decisions taken by the Constitutional Court, but has not yet decided on this step, because the Act makes it possible for a representative of the Roma community to be elected to the municipal council in elections held by the National Electoral Commission, with the municipality covering the costs. The purpose of the legislator is thus achieved, and despite the inconsistent municipal statute, a representative of the Roma community is regularly elected to the Grosuplje municipal council. Additional clarification is provided in Part II of the report.

Participation of minorities in socio-economic life

Young minority members can seek employment in various minority and state institutions systemically funded by the Republic of Slovenia through the authority responsible for national minorities (both umbrella organisations of the Italian and Hungarian national communities, radio and TV programmes for the Italian and Hungarian national communities within the public RTV Slovenia, Institute for the Information Activity of the Hungarian National Community in Lendava, bilingual municipalities of Lendava, Moravske Toplice, Dobrovnik, Šalovci, Hodoš, Koper, Izola, Piran and Ankaran, and self-governing national communities in these municipalities,

the so-called Italian institutions (Historical Research Centre in Rovinj, EDIT publishing house, Italian Drama, Italian Union).

Furthermore, the relevant ministry provides funding from a part (2.5%) of the funds obtained from the sale of former publicly owned property. The Slovenian Regional Development Fund regularly issues calls for applications for obtaining loans for entrepreneurial and rural investment projects (companies, agricultural holdings) and grants for programmes in ethnically mixed areas (municipalities, institutes, societies, etc.). In 2016, the Fund issued a separate call for applications for grants for entrepreneurial projects in the areas inhabited by the Hungarian and Italian national communities in the amount of EUR 0.5 million. Grants and loans from sales proceeds are also earmarked for 2017.

The approved regional development programmes of the Pomurje and Primorska-Kras regions for the 2014–2020 period put special emphasis on projects and measures intended for ethnically mixed areas.

During the implementation of the National Programme of Measures for Roma for the Period 2010–2015, the Republic of Slovenia, through its Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, actively participated in implementing measures in Priority Area No. 3 "Reducing unemployment rates of members of the Roma community and enhancing their social inclusion and access to the labour market" and in Priority Area No. 6 "Awareness raising and combating discrimination". In order to better identify the interests and needs of Roma community members in Slovenia, the Ministry, when drafting measures and programmes to improve the situation of Roma, held a number of consultations with representatives of their umbrella organisation, the Roma Community Council of the Republic of Slovenia, and representatives of other Roma organisations in Slovenia, such as the Roma Union.

In the regulations on employment and social protection, Roma are equal in terms of rights and obligations to that of all other citizens of the Republic of Slovenia.

Labour market and employment

Despite the difficult situation in the labour market, there have been no significant changes to the number of unemployed Roma registered with the Employment Service of Slovenia. The slight increase in their number is primarily due to the economic crisis. The numbers of unemployed Roma are provided in the table below.

Number of unemployed Roma in 2010–2016

Year	Dec. 2010	Dec. 2011	Dec. 2012	Dec. 2013	Dec. 2014	Dec. 2015	March 2016
Number of unemployed	110,021	112,754	118,061	124,015	119,458	113,076	110,226
– of whom Roma	2,283	2,328	2,313	2,475	2,518	2,641	2,609

Source: Employment Service of the Republic of Slovenia

The Employment Service does not keep a separate record of unemployed persons of Roma descent, as there is no legal basis for collecting data on ethnicity. The Employment Service keeps the records only of those Roma who declare themselves as Roma in the preparation of employment plans or during any other procedure. Despite the significant efforts invested, the unemployment rate in the Roma community in Slovenia remains rather high, particularly in the south-east of the country.

The total annual number of persons from the Roma community participating in active employment policy programmes, labour market services workshops and career centres within which the Employment Service organises activities related to seeking employment and career orientations (former information and career guidance centres), and the amount of funds the Ministry earmarked for active measures for Roma in 2011–2015, are given in the table below.

Number of Roma included and use of funds in 2011–2015

Year	Number of Roma included in active employment policy programmes	Funds (EUR)	Note
2011	1,311	1,317,521.00	Number of Roma included in specific active employment policy programmes and the activities of information and career guidance centres in 2011
2012	1,033	1,596,023.28	Number of Roma included in active employment policy programmes, labour market services workshops and activities of information and career guidance centres in 2012
2013	2,203	1,211,186.00	Number of Roma included in active employment policy programmes, labour market services workshops and activities of information and career guidance centres in 2013
2014	2,445	1,600,000.00*	Number of Roma included in active employment policy programmes, labour market services workshops and activities of career guidance centres in 2014
2015	2,433	1,162,290.00	Number of Roma included in active employment policy programmes, labour market services workshops and activities of career guidance centres in 2015

* The stated amount of funds for 2014 includes the costs of programmes intended for Roma as part of community work.

Source: Employment Service of Slovenia

Inclusion of Roma in active job seeking increases their chances of re-entering the labour market. In 2010, 264 Roma were removed from official unemployment records because they obtained employment; in 2011 the numbers was 245; in 2012, 283; in 2013, 279; in 2014, 276; in 2015, 240; from January to March 2016, 125.

With a view to reducing the number of unemployed Roma and improving their employability, Roma will remain a priority target group in active employment policy programmes.

The community work placement programme entitled 'Helping Roma with socialisation' is an excellent example of good practice. It includes education and learning assistance, holding leisure activities in Roma settlements, activities aimed at overcoming language barriers, help with establishing dialogue, the inclusion of adults in educational programmes, closer involvement with the surrounding environment, help with the regulation of housing conditions and infrastructure in Roma settlements, accompanying Roma to relevant institutions, integration into the local environment, encouraging young Roma to re-enrol in educational programmes, promotion of healthy lifestyles, etc.

The programme is carried out by elementary schools, preschool institutions, centres for social services, societies, libraries, adult education centres, education centres, and municipalities.

The results achieved in the community work placement programme 'Helping Roma with socialisation' in the 2011–2016 period:

Year	No. of community work placement programmes under 'Helping Roma with Socialisation'	No. of community work placements	Funds (EUR)
2011	34	79	862,604.00
2012	44	88	825,169.00
2013	49	108	813,145.00
2014	44	71	724,200.00
2015	44	94	700,200.00
2016*	44	79	684,372.00

* Data for the period from January to March 2016

Source: Employment Service of Slovenia

Social assistance programmes

On the basis of the National Social Assistance Programme for the 2013–2020 period, which determines the indicative areas (grids) of all social assistance programmes, the competent ministry annually issues a call for applications for co-financing social

assistance programmes. Of the nine areas, one is reserved exclusively for programmes intended to prevent the social exclusion of Roma.

The purpose of social assistance programmes is to prevent and deal with the social distress of particular vulnerable groups (and in certain cases to maintain the acceptable social status of individuals where their problems cannot reasonably be expected to be solved), and supplement other social assistance services and measures. No technical, personnel or substantive standards have been set for their implementation. The programmes are implemented on the basis of approval or guidelines published in calls for applications to (co)finance them, and are designed to take into account the specific features and needs of particular target groups, as well as the specific features of the environment or area where they are carried out.

The list of social assistance programmes to prevent the social exclusion of Roma provided below, along with the amounts of co-financing in the 2010–2016 period, shows that in 2016, the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities earmarked almost twice the amount to co-finance programmes for Roma than in 2010.

2010: a total of EUR 45,062.95

- Grosuplje Centre for Social Services: TIKNO THEM – SMALL WORLD, creating conditions to ensure equal access to education for Roma children;
- Krško Red Cross Branch: We are here because we are needed – reducing the social exclusion of Roma;
- LOG-UM: Promotion of the social, mental and cognitive maturity of Roma children in elementary school;
- Kočevje Red Cross Branch: Assistance to Roma;
- Novo Mesto Red Cross Branch: Red Cross stations in Roma settlements;
- Association for Developing Voluntary Work Novo Mesto: *Skupa* (Together) – Social Integration of Roma;
- Trebnje Centre for Social Services: *Kher šu beši* Day Centre.

2011: a total of EUR 92,510.43

- Krško Red Cross Branch: We are here because we are needed – reducing the social exclusion of Roma;
- Novo Mesto Red Cross Branch: Assistance to and counselling for Roma families and individuals;
- Kočevje Red Cross Branch: Assistance to Roma;
- Ribnica Red Cross Branch: Social inclusion of Roma;
- *Roma džan angle* Society (Roma will go on), Grosuplje: Helping Roma with social inclusion;
- Association for Developing Voluntary Work Novo Mesto: *Skupa* (Together) – Social Inclusion of Roma;
- LOG-UM: Promotion of the social, mental and cognitive maturity of Roma children in elementary school;

- Trebnje Centre for Social Services; *Kher šu beši* Day Centre;
- Society for Educating and Connecting Children – MOZAIK Society, Šmarje – Sap: Hand in hand.

2012: a total of EUR 40,708.26

- LOG-UM, Ljubljana: Promotion of the social, mental and cognitive maturity of Roma children in elementary school;
- Trebnje Centre for Social Services: *Kher šu beši* Day Centre.

2013: a total of EUR 69,224.61 EUR

- Association for Developing Voluntary Work Novo Mesto: Day centre for Roma children, five-year programme in the 2013–2017;
- Trebnje Centre for Social Services: *Kher šu beši* Day Centre, one-year programme.

2014: a total of EUR 70,537.52

- Association for Developing Voluntary Work Novo Mesto: Day Centre for Roma Children (programme co-financed for 2013–2017);
- Trebnje Centre for Social Services: *Kher šu beši* Day Centre (programme co-financed every year).

2015: a total of EUR 70,442.70

- Association for Developing Voluntary Work Novo Mesto: Day Centre for Roma Children (programme co-financed for 2013–2017);
- Trebnje Centre for Social Services: *Kher šu beši* Day Centre (programme co-financed every year).

2016: a total of EUR 86,556.50

- Association for Developing Voluntary Work Novo Mesto: Day Centre for Roma Children (programme co-financed for 2013–2017),
- Trebnje Centres for Social Services: *Kher šu beši* Day Centre (multi-annual programme for 2016–2020).

In the framework of the Operational Programme for the Implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy 2014–2020 of the European Social Fund, the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities plans to support projects intended for vulnerable groups in the labour market, including members of the Roma community, primarily subsidised employment, and education and training programmes. The Ministry will also support employment projects at the local and regional levels (programmes specifically designed for the local environment may also target members of the Roma community).

In order to improve the social inclusion of Roma, the competent ministry intends to carry out a project involving the establishment of multi-purpose Roma centres. In these centres, in cooperation with relevant organisations, the Ministry wants to promote activities which will open up better opportunities to members of the Roma

community, particularly the young, to facilitate their inclusion in the labour market, and acquaint them with the basics of entrepreneurship and possibilities of self-employment.

Awareness raising

In 2015, in addition to the above-mentioned activities, which definitely contributed to greater awareness and improved the situation of Roma community members in Slovenia, the competent ministry, in the framework of a call for applications for the co-financing of NGO projects related to equal opportunities, supported a further three projects for the empowerment of Roma and migrant women:

- Roma Union of Slovenia: "*Zoralpe romene žuvljengru*" project – empowerment of Roma women;
- Association Frekvenca: "Listen to me, my opinion matters" project;
- APIS Institute: "Images of equality" project.

All these projects contributed to the empowerment of women, awareness raising, overcoming stereotypes and stereotyped roles, to preventing discrimination and promoting equality of migrant and Roma women.³⁶

Articles 17 and 18 of the Framework Convention

Cross-border cooperation

The Government and the authority responsible for national minorities support the development of intensive cross-border cooperation between members of national minorities. With the Decree on co-financing municipalities in ethnically mixed areas for 2016 (Official Gazette No. 32/16), the Government determined the purpose and amount of funds earmarked for municipalities with ethnically mixed populations for financing bilingualism and exercising the constitutional rights of the Italian or Hungarian national communities in 2016. Public funds allocated in accordance with the Decree are intended for financing the bilingual operations of the municipal administration and bodies in the municipalities of Koper, Izola, Piran, Ankaran, Lendava, Moravske Toplice, Dobrovnik, Šalovci and Hodoš, and for the operations of self-governing national communities in these municipalities.

In accordance with the Decree, the Government also co-finances the planned expenses of the municipal self-governing national community's operations involving relations with the nation of origin (Article 4 of the Decree).

The legal basis for co-financing is a signed contract on co-financing the bilingual operations of the municipal administration and bodies and the operations of the self-governing national community concluded between the Office for National Minorities and a particular municipality, in accordance with the provisions of Article 9 of the Decree.

³⁶ More information on the projects is available at:
http://www.mddsz.gov.si/si/delovna_podrocja/enake_moznosti/sofinanciranje_projektov_nevladnih_organizacij/

In keeping with Article 10 of the Decree, a municipality with a municipal self-governing national community may conclude a contract on co-financing the operations of the municipal self-governing national community, which – on the basis of the contract – determines the amount of funds for the operations.

On the basis of reviews of the 2015 annual reports of the municipalities with ethnically mixed populations, and of the self-governing national communities, Slovenia noted that municipalities themselves also allocate funds for, and strive to enhance cross-border cooperation with the nation of origin.

With regard to their cross-border cooperation, the annual reports of the municipalities and Hungarian self-governing national communities primarily describe contacts and participation in working meetings with representatives of the local authorities of Hungarian towns (mayors, deputy mayors, etc.), participation in official meetings with high representatives of Hungary (members and the speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly), participation in meetings with representatives of Hungarian societies and associations, schools and cultural institutions, business events (conferences, forums, etc.) in Hungary, attendance at cultural and art events (literary presentations, important anniversaries, commemorations, Statehood Day ceremony, local holidays and village feasts), and fairs in Hungary, as well as participation in other social events promoting mutual contacts and friendship.

Case 1: Outline of contacts with members of the Hungarian national community living in other countries (source: 2015 Business Report of the Hungarian Self-governing National Community of Pomurje):

CONTACTS WITH HUNGARY:

Objectives and descriptions:

- Talks in Budapest: *Nemzeti Erőforrás Minisztérium, Család-, Ifjúság-, és Népesedéspolitikai Intézet*, National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia.
- Attendance at the cultural event marking the 250th anniversary of the Batthyány Lajos grammar school in Nagykanizsa. Business meeting with László Kövér, Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly, in Dobrovnik.
- Presentation of the cultural activities of the Prekmurje Hungarians in Budapest (Polgárok Háza) entitled 'Culture in the Towns of the Carpathian Basin'.
- Lenti (Hungary) – business meeting with the town's mayor.
- Business meetings in Lendava with the Hungarian deputy state secretary responsible for European Union affairs, the Hungarian state secretary responsible for the policy on nationalities, and the Hungarian state secretary responsible for culture.
- Round table with the participation of, among others, the Hungarian state secretary responsible for the policy on nationalities, the Hungarian deputy state secretary responsible for agriculture, and the director of the National Policy Research Institute (Nemzetpolitikai Kutatóintézet).

- Business meeting in Lendava with members of the Hungarian National Assembly, with the Hungarian ambassador to Slovenia and with the Hungarian consul in Lendava.
- Meeting with representatives of the Rakoczi Union (Rákóczi Szövetség) at Bilingual Elementary School Lendava I.
- Business meeting with an expert adviser, a representative of the company Könyvtárellátó Nonprofit Kft., which is responsible for the development of library collections in Hungary.
- Participation in the gastronomic and cultural event '*Hetés vendégül lát*' in the village of Bödeháza.

CONTACTS WITH MEMBERS OF THE HUNGARIAN NATIONAL COMMUNITY living in other countries:

Objectives and descriptions:

- Arad (Romania) – business meetings with the mayor and deputy mayor, and with a representative of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania from Arad (Romániai Magyar Demokrata Szövetség, Arad Megyei Szervezet); the visit involved a tour of cultural institutions and a stop at an elementary and a secondary school where instruction is also provided in Hungarian.
- Senta/Zenta, Subotica/Szabadka (Serbia) – meeting with representatives of the Nationalities Council.
- Cluj Napoca/Kolozsvár (Romania) – participation in the Kárpát-medencei Kulturális Ifjúsági Fesztivál event.
- Komárno/Komárom (Slovakia) – participation in festivities celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Association of Hungarian Teachers in Slovakia (Szlovákiai Magyar Pedagógusok Szövetsége).

Similar efforts invested in establishing fruitful cross-border cooperation are also evident in the annual reports of the municipalities and self-governing national communities in the areas inhabited by members of the Italian national community. In these areas, close ties have been established both with members of the Italian national community in Croatia and with members of the nation of origin. In addition to strong links maintained through participation in official, business and other meetings, ties are also strengthened through the joint organisation of concerts and other cultural events, such as:

Case 2: Outline of contacts with the nation of origin of the Italian self-governing national community of Izola (source: 2015 Annual Report):

- 6 February 2015 at 19.00, Manzioli Palace: an Italian community theatre group from Piran staged a comedy in the Venetian dialect entitled *APPRODO, DIMORA E PROCESSO DE MESSER GIACOMO CASANOVA A PIRAN*.
- 19 April 2015 at 19.00, Izola House of Culture: Teatro incontro theatre group from Trieste staged Molière's tragicomedy *Don Giovanni*.
- 29 May 2015 at 19.00, Manzioli Palace: Teatro incontro theatre group from Trieste staged *Il volo transoceanico di Lindbergh*.

- 3 October 2015 at 19.00, Izola House of Culture: L'Armonia, Gruppo teatrale AMICI DI SAN GIOVANNI – F.I.T.A. staged the comedy *FAUSTO E MARGHERITA*.
- 7 November 2015 at 19.00, Izola House of Culture: L'Armonia, Compagnia Quei de Scala Santa – F.I.T.A. staged the comedy *CHE GROPI ARA!*.

- Visiting groups:

- 10 January 2015 at 18.00, Manzioli Palace: concert given by the A.I.D.A. folk ensemble from Muggia/Milje.
- 24 January 2015 at 18.00, Izola House of Culture: CRUT theatre group (University of Trieste) staged the comedy *LA VENEXIANA*.
- 31 January 2015 at 18.00, Manzioli Palace: concert given by the Gruppo Incontro music ensemble from Trieste.
- 21 February 2015 at 18.00, Manzioli Palace: poetry soiree on International Mother Tongue Day *OMAGGIO ALLA POESIA IN DIALETTO DI VIRGILIO GIOTTI* – on 30th anniversary of the poet's birth.
- 22 March 2015 at 18.00, Izola House of Culture: La Bottega theatre group staged *Femmine da morire*.
- 11 April 2015 at 18.00, Manzioli Palace: *THE SEA AND ITS STORIES* – 19th and 20th century poetry and music.
- 10 May 2015 at 18.00, Manzioli Palace: musical soiree *QUANDO CANTA RABAGLIATI*.
- 14 June 2015 at 18.00, Manzioli Palace: I Commedianti Ugo Amodeo from Trieste staged a theatre piece directed by Luciano Volpi. The piece in the Trieste dialect consists of three parts.
- 16 October 2015 at 18.00, Manzioli Palace: *QUELLA TROMBA DI LATTA DEL CONFINE ORIENTALE ITALIANO* – presentation of the book accompanied by music.
- 20 October 2015 at 18.00, Manzioli Palace: *MANCA LORENZO BUFFON – Istria, Arsia e altre tragedie dimenticate* – presentation of the book by Antonio Venturini.

PART IV

Special issues

As part of the ongoing dialogue with the Advisory Committee, states parties may be invited to provide answers to certain questions regarding specific national circumstances.

No additional comments with regard to specific national circumstances have been provided.

Annex 1

Data provided by the Ministry of Culture on co-financing the media in 2011–2016 dealing with, inter alia, issues of various minority ethnic groups in Slovenia

2013:

Applicant	Project title	Community included
Podjetje za informiranje Murska Sobota (information company)	<i>Iz(brano)</i>	Hungarian national community, Roma community and members of the Croatian group
Primorske Novice, Koper	Croatia in the EU	Members of the Croatian group
KAOS, Ljubljana	A Propos at 3 p.m.	Members of the Croatian group
Dolenjski List Novo Mesto	<i>Uredništvo v gosteh 2013</i> (Visiting editorial board 2013)	Roma community
Zdenka Ivačič, s. p.	<i>Krajevni mozaik</i> (Local Mosaic)	Roma community, members of the Croatian group
Oblak Turnišče Research and Development Institute	<i>MOZAIK</i> (programme about Slovenes living abroad, ethnic groups and minorities)	Hungarian national community, Roma community, members of the Croatian group and Slovenes in Carinthia
Radio Murski Val, Murska Sobota	<i>Aktualno</i> (In Focus) – informative programme	Hungarian national community, Roma community
TV IDEA – Kanal 10, Murska Sobota	<i>Pomurski dnevnik</i> (News programme)	Hungarian national community, Roma community
Televizija Novo Mesto, Novo Mesto	News	Roma community
UNIVOX, Kočevje	<i>Zahodnodolenjski odmevi</i> (Topical news from West Dolenjska)	Roma community, members of the German-speaking group, members of the Croatian group and Slovenes living abroad
Danilo Kiš Serbian Cultural Centre	Radio programme in the Serbian language	Members of the Serbian community
HI-FI VIDEOSTUDIO Murska Sobota	<i>GNES</i> – informative programme	Hungarian national community, Roma community, members of the Croatian group and Slovenes in Carinthia

2014:

Applicant	Project title	Community included
Podjetje za informiranje Murska Sobota (information company)	<i>Iz(brano)</i>	Hungarian national community, Roma community and members of the Croatian group
Institute for Information Services of the Hungarian National Community	<i>Manjšina o manjšini</i> (Minority on minority)	Hungarian national community
Sraka International, d. o. o., Novo Mesto	We can say it well and sing it even better	Roma community and Slovenes abroad
Radio Capris, d. o. o., Koper	Local news	Italian national community
TV IDEA – Kanal 10, Murska Sobota	<i>Pomurski dnevnik</i> (News programme)	Hungarian national community, Roma community and members of the Croatian group
Radio Murski Val, Murska Sobota	<i>Aktualno</i> (In Focus) – informative programme	Hungarian national community, Roma community
TELEVIZIJA NOVO MESTO	News	Roma community
UNIVOX, Kočevje	<i>Zahodnodolenjski odmevi</i> (Topical news from West Dolenjska)	Roma community, members of the German-speaking group, members of the Croatian group and Slovenes living abroad
HI-FI VIDEOSTUDIO Murska Sobota	Events	Hungarian national community, Roma community, members of the Croatian group and Slovenes in the Austrian Carinthia
Danilo Kiš Serbian Cultural Centre	Radio programme in the Serbian language	Members of the Serbian community

2015:

Applicant	Project title	Community included
Podjetje za informiranje Murska Sobota d.o.o. (information company)	<i>Iz(brano)</i>	Hungarian national community, Roma community and members of the Croatian group
RADIO MURSKI VAL, d. o. o.	<i>Aktualno</i> (In Focus) – informative programme	Hungarian national community, Roma community
TV idea – Kanal 10, d. o. o.	<i>POMURSKI DNEVNIK</i> (News programme)	Hungarian national community, Roma community

TELEVIZIJA NOVO MESTO, d. o. o.	NEWS	Roma community
UNIVOX, d. o. o.	<i>Zahodnodolenjski odmevi</i> (Topical news from West Dolenjska)	Roma community, members of the German-speaking group, members of the Croatian group and Slovenes living abroad
HI-FI VIDEOSTUDIO, d. o. o.	Events	Hungarian national community, Roma community, members of the Croatian group and Slovenes in Carinthia
Institute for Information Services of the Hungarian National Community	<i>Manjšina o manjšini</i> (Minority on minority)	Hungarian national community
Radio Capris, d. o. o., Koper	Local news from the Coastal-Karst region	Italian national community
Knowledge and information society VÓTER	<i>Mi, zamejci</i> (We, people living beyond the border)	Hungarian national community, Roma community, members of the Croatian group and Slovenes in Carinthia
Koroški radio, d. o. o. Slovenj Gradec	<i>Ritem Koroške</i> (Rhythm of Carinthia)	Slovenes in Carinthia
Radio Študent Institute	URBAN STUDENT MEDIA AND EDUCATION PLATFORM 2015	Serbian community
Zavod Roka (project management institute)	<i>Pomurske novice</i> (News from Pomurje)	Roma community, Croatian and Hungarian communities
TV Celje	<i>Dogodki dneva</i> (Events of the day) news programme	Roma, people from former Yugoslav republics
Radio Triglav Jesenice	<i>Utrip življenja na Gorenjskem</i> (Pulse of life in Gorenjska)	People from former Yugoslav republics
TELE-TV, D. O. O.	<i>GORENJSKA POROČILA</i> (NEWS FROM GORENJSKA)	People from former Yugoslav republics
Radio Cerčno, d. o. o.	FROM LOGATEC TO ČEDAD	Italian national community

2016:

Institute for the Information Activity of the Hungarian National Community	Minority on Minority programme, to mark the 60th anniversary of the Nepujsag weekly	Hungarian national community (the Nepujsag weekly is the only newspaper printed in the Hungarian language)
Zavod Roka, Černelavci (project management institute)	<i>Pomurske novice</i> (News from Pomurje)	Articles about national minorities, shows with invited representatives of minorities (Austria, Hungary, Croatia) and Roma
Institute for Culture Coincidence 7, computer art and games	Immigrants tell stories	People from former Yugoslavia
VIDEO PRO, d. o. o.	<i>MIKROJEZIKI</i> (MICROLANGUAGES)	A series of three shows on microlanguages spoken by small ethnic groups seeking to answer the question of what Slovene is like in Resia, Venezia Giulia and the Rába Region
Radio Študent Institute	Urban student media and education platform	Jugosfera show – connecting Yugoslav languages and cultures – people from the territory of the former Yugoslavia; <i>Romano horo</i> (Romani song) – Romani music and language intended for members of the Roma community; <i>Kontrola leta</i> (Flight control) – show produced by members of the Serbian community for the Serbian
Radio Murski Val, d. o. o	<i>Aktualno</i> (In Focus) – informative programme	Roma community – the programme keeps Roma informed and contributes to better cooperation between Roma and the majority population
TV idea – Kanal 10, d. o. o.	<i>Pomurski dnevnik</i> (News programme)	Information about the situation of the Roma community in Pomurje, in cooperation with the Roma Union of Slovenia
HI-FI VIDEOSTUDIO, d. o. o.	Mura Rába	15-minute bilingual programme about life in Prekmurje and the Rába Region (Hungarian community)

Knowledge and information society VÓTER	We people living beyond the border	Slovenes living abroad
UNIVOX, podjetje za RTV produkcijo, d. o. o. (RTV production company)	<i>Zahodnodolenjski odmevi</i> (Topical news from West Dolenjska)	Roma community – the broadcast keeps Roma informed and contributes to better cooperation between Roma and the majority population
KOROŠKI RADIO, d. o. o	<i>Odmevi koroških dolin</i> (Echos of Carinthian valleys)	The <i>Odprta meja</i> (Open border) broadcast focuses on providing information for Carinthian Slovenes in Austria
NAŠ ČAS, d. o. o.	<i>Prvi pri vas doma</i> (Your first choice)	The project covers specific topics, such as presenting the life and cultural production of minorities and other national groups, Romano Vazo, Međimurje Society, Bosniak Society, Croatian Cultural Society, Serbian Society
Televizija Novo Mesto, d. o. o	News	The programme also includes contributions dealing with issues of the Roma community and the Serbian, Croatian and Gottscheer communities.

Annex 2

CULTURAL PROGRAMMES OF THE ITALIAN AND HUNGARIAN NATIONAL COMMUNITIES 2011–2016 – AMOUNTS

Year	Italian national community	Hungarian national community
2017	699,394.00	
2016	699,394.00	
	285,795.00 (Institute: 83,947, other: 201,795)	413,652.00 (Institute: 389,458, other: 24,194)
2015	695,299.00	
	285,073.00 (Institute: 83,278, other: 201,795)	410,226.00 (Institute: 386,032, other: 24,194)
2014	683,408.00	
	280,198.00 (Institute: 84,380, other: 195,818)	403,210.00 (Institute: 379,016, other: 24,194)
2013	690,311.00	
	283,028.00 (Institute: 84,119, other providers: 198,909)	407,282.00 (Institute: 382,845, other providers: 24,437)
2012	690,311.00	
	283,028.00 (Institute: 84,908, other providers: 198,120)	407,282.00 (Institute: 382,845, other providers: 24,437)
2011	754,820.00	
	308,040.00 (Institute: 91,554, other providers: 216,486)	446,780.00 (Institute: 421,780, other providers: 24,437)

CULTURAL PROJECTS FOR THE ROMA COMMUNITY 2011–2016

Year	Available funds	Paid	Number of projects approved	Number of projects financed
2017	92,115.00	n/a	n/a	n/a
2016	92,115.00	100%	83	n/a
2015	92,115.00	84,800.20 = 92.06%	102	90
2014	90,539.00	87,524.23 = 97.64%	84	80
2013	89,754.00	84,349.91 = 94%	94	87
2012	91,454.00	83,604.00 = 91.4%	91	79
2011	100,000.00	96,400.00 = 96.4%	83	79

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CULTURAL PROJECTS IN FOR THE GERMAN-SPEAKING ETHNIC GROUP 2011–2016

Year	Available funds	Paid	Number of projects approved	Number of projects financed
2011	24,000.00	100%	13	13
2012	21,949.00	100%	15	15
2013	21,949.00	100%	13	13
2014	21,730.00	19,630.00 = 90.34%	21	20
2015	22,108.00	18,150.00 = 82.10%	21	17
2016	22,108.00	n/a	22	n/a